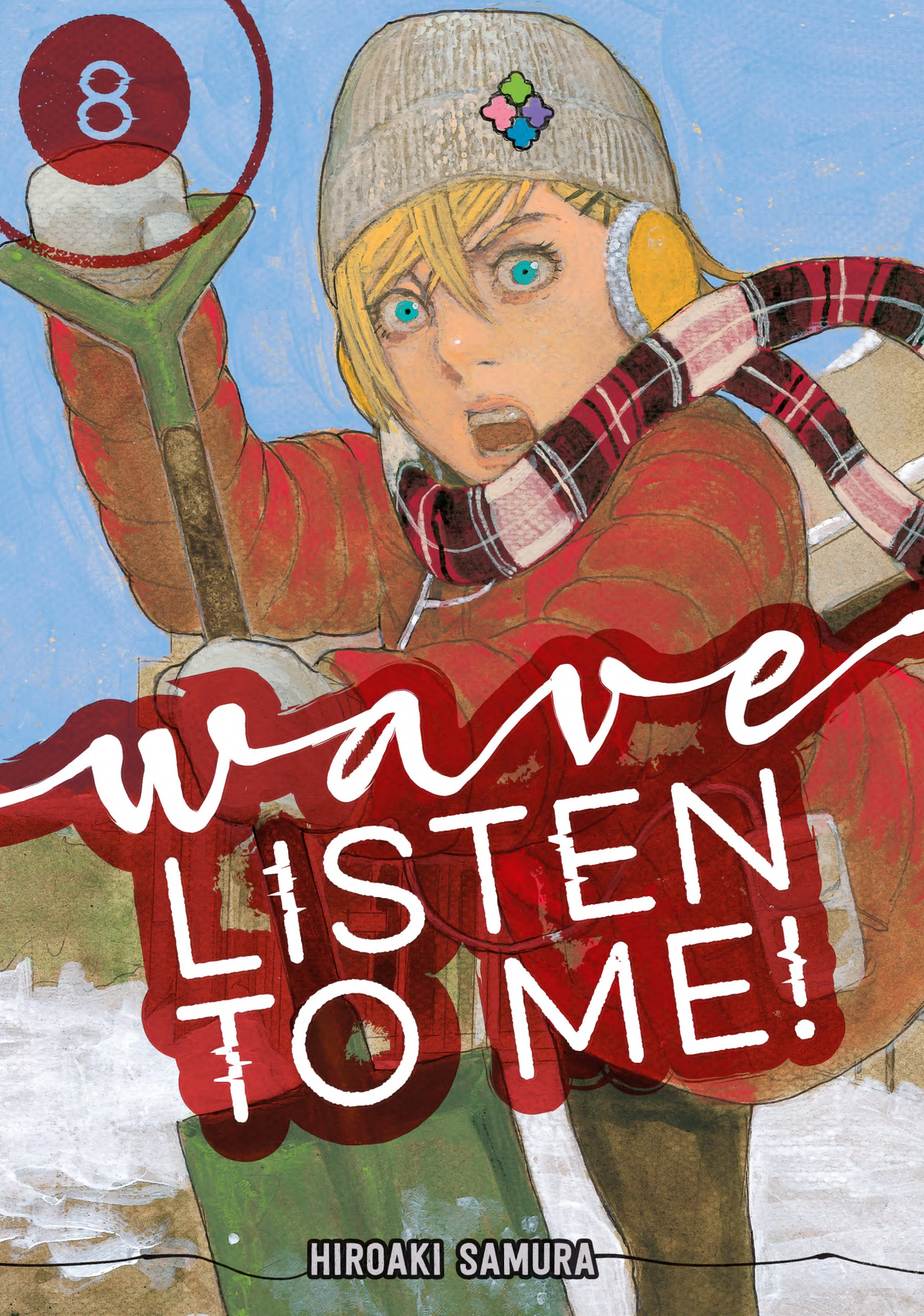

8
wave
LISTEN TO ME!
HIROAKI SAMURA

Omamori

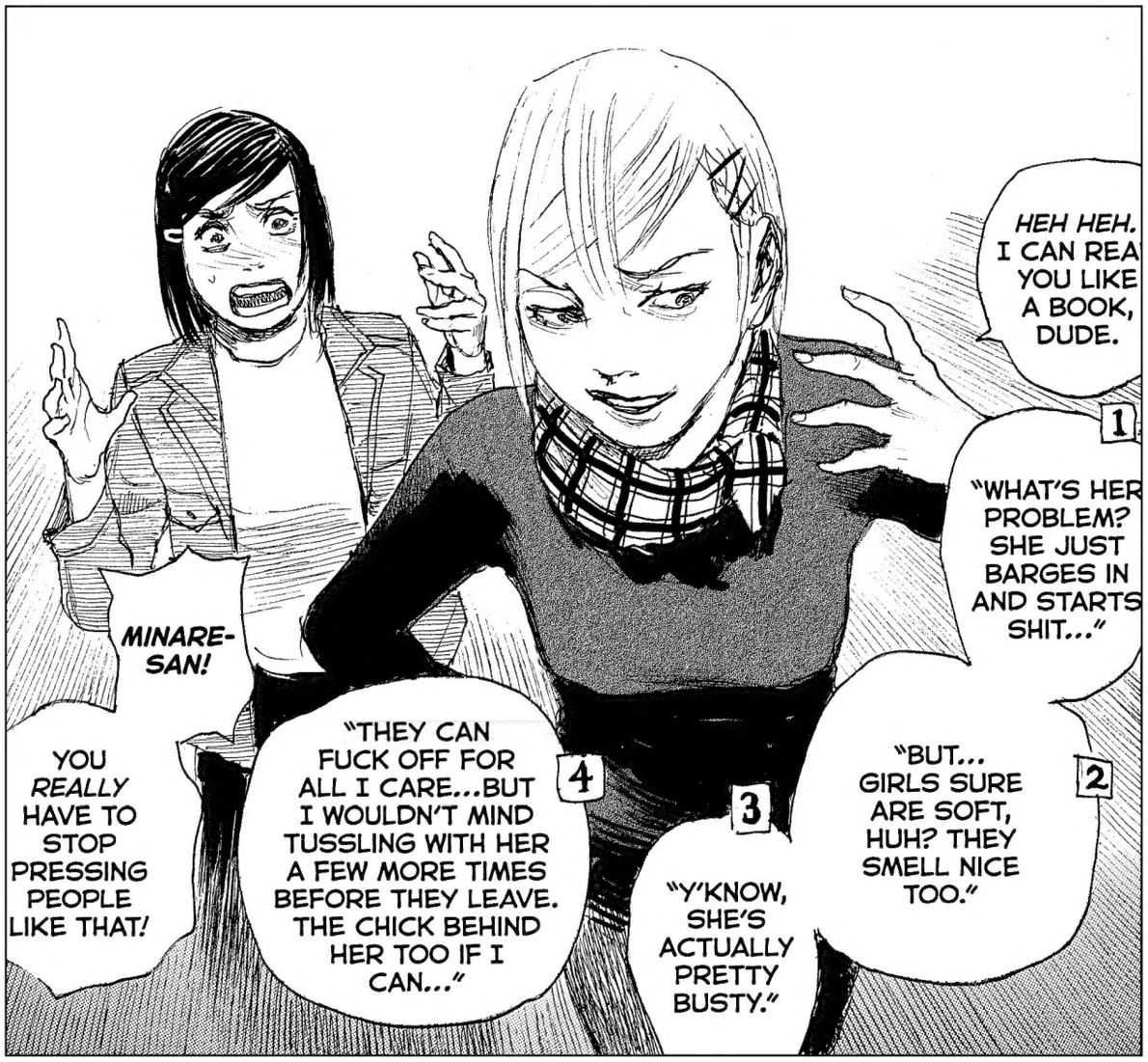
HIROAKI SAMURA

8

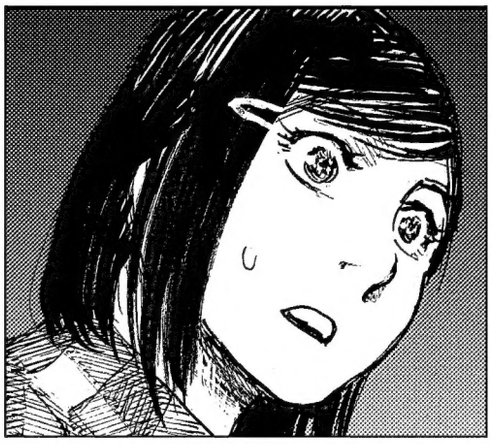
LISTEN TO ME!

Sapporo, Hokkaido. One night at a bar, Minare Koda has her drunken ramblings secretly recorded by a local FM radio station director, Mato, who plays the audio over the air the following day. The bit's a hit, one thing leads to another, and Minare ends up with her very own radio show. Now, come early November, she's receives an S.O.S. from a concerned listener, beseeching her help in saving their son from his shut-in ways. Aided by Mizuho and young Hiromi, on the night they try to carry out their plan, a massive earthquake strikes Hokkaido, knocking out power all over the island. Thus begins an era of darkness.

Minare Koda



The protagonist. Kushiro-born Sapporo resident. Currently 27 and single. Her day job is working as a waitress at the soup curry restaurant VOYAGER, but with her termination perpetually over the horizon, she's scrambling to make a living as a radio DJ.

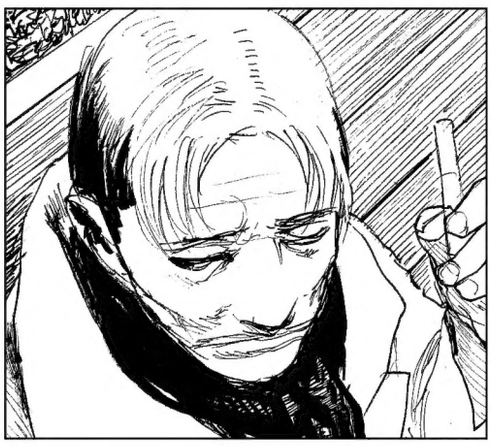


Mizuho Nanba

Assistant director at MRS. Currently letting Minare stay with her after she was kicked out of her apartment. Wife material.

Kanetsugu Mato

Director of FM station "Moiwayama Radio" (MRS). Saw potential in Minare's conversation skills and scouted her for the radio business.

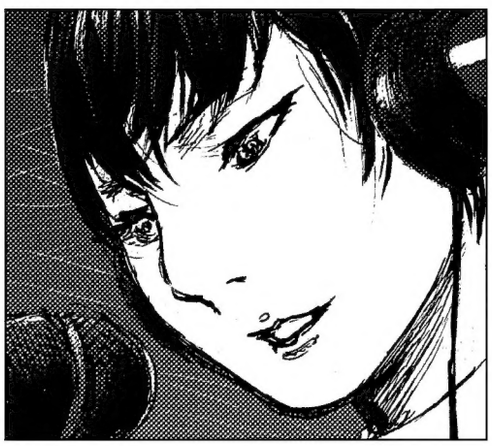


Katsumi Kureko

A scriptwriter for MRS and a veteran of the industry. He and Mato go way back.

Chuuya Nakahara

An employee at VOYAGER. Supposedly in love with Minare, but invited Makie to stay at his place.



Madoka Chishiro

DJ at MRS. A highly skilled talker and close "friend" of Kureko's. Excels at provocative dialogue.

Makie Tachibana

A beautiful woman working at VOYAGER to help pay for the car accident caused by her brother. Not the most skilled swordsman in the manga, nor is she going to die in Ibaraki.

Chapter 57 「YOU'RE NOT ALONE.」 005

Chapter 58 「I CAN'T STAY HERE.」 027

Chapter 59 「YOU DON'T GET IT.」 049

Chapter 60 「I CAN'T PICK A TIME OR PLACE.」 071

Chapter 61 「PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE OVERNIGHT.」 089

Chapter 61.5 「IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.」 111

Chapter 62 「I CAN'T HOLD BACK *ALL* THE TIME.」 115

Chapter 63 「I SHOW NO MERCY TO STRANGERS.」 133

Chapter 64 「THAT'S NOT HOW THE WORLD WORKS.」 145

EXTRA 「I CAN'T BE HONEST WITH MYSELF.」 165

Chapter 57 「YOU'RE NOT ALONE.」

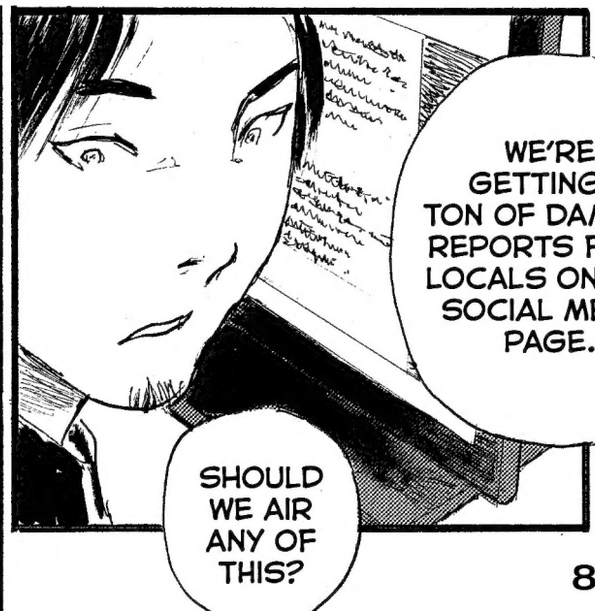
LOOK AT ALL THE STARS...

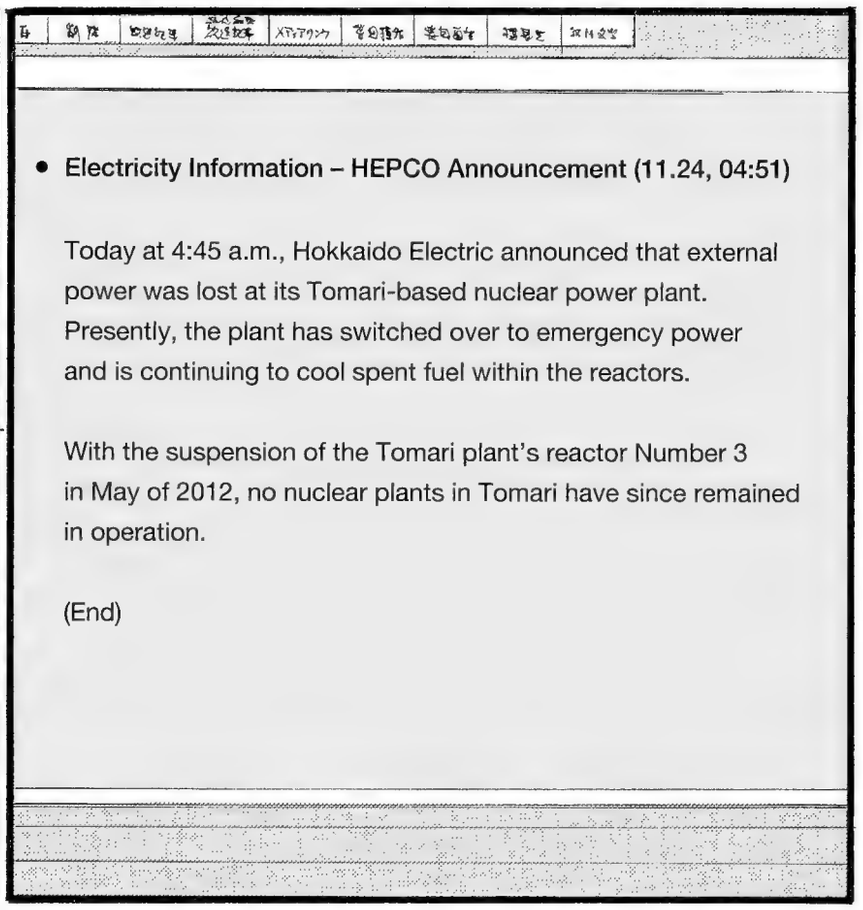
I HAVEN'T SEEN THE SKY THIS FULL SINCE I MOVED TO SAPPORO.
AND ALL IT TOOK WAS A CITY-WIDE BLACKOUT...
AH!
JERK!
WOBL WOBL WOBL
KON-
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT PITCH BLACK OUTSIDE IN SAPPORO TOO.
BUT IT'S NOT REALLY THAT SCARY SINCE I CAN SENSE THAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE UP AND ABOUT.
UGH...
RIGHT. I FORGOT THE ROADS ARE A MESS...

DRIVERS ARE ADVISED TO PARK ON THE SHOULDER OF THE ROAD IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE, PLEASE LEAVE THE KEY IN THE IGNITION.
PLEASE TAKE CARE WHEN TRAVELING, AS THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF SEVERE AFTER-SHOCKS.

I repeat, a large earthquake struck southern Hokkaido today at 3:08. Local seismic intensity is as follows...
STILL NO UPDATE FROM THE BUREAU OR INFRA-STRUCTURE AGENCIES EITHER.
LOOKS LIKE ALL WE CAN DO IS ECHO THE SAME INFO.

WE CAN'T JUST GO 'N REPORT EVERY UN-CONFIRMED RUMOR THAT COMES IN.
'PRECIATE THE HELP, BUT LET'S HOLD OFF ON THAT FOR NOW.


WE'RE GETTING A TON OF DAMAGE REPORTS FROM LOCALS ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE.
SHOULD WE AIR ANY OF THIS?



- **Electricity Information – HEPCO Announcement (11.24, 04:51)**

Today at 4:45 a.m., Hokkaido Electric announced that external power was lost at its Tomari-based nuclear power plant. Presently, the plant has switched over to emergency power and is continuing to cool spent fuel within the reactors.

With the suspension of the Tomari plant's reactor Number 3 in May of 2012, no nuclear plants in Tomari have since remained in operation.

(End)

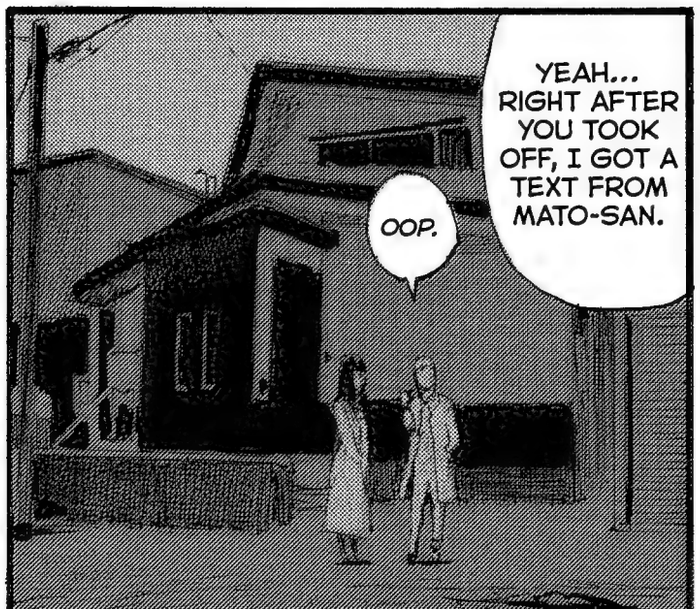
HERE COMES THE CAVALRY.
MORNING, EVERYONE!
ANY WORD ON THE DAMAGE IN TOWN?

I CAN'T SAY. IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE WELL.
WEIRD.
EVEN THOUGH EPI-CENTER'S DOWN SOUTH, EH?
BUT IT DID SEEM LIKE THE EAST SIDE WAS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN DOWNTOWN.

MORNING, PEOPLE. I'M HERE
THERE SHE IS.

MIND WATCHING THE FEED FOR ME?
SO, HOW CAN I HELP?
I HAVE TO BRING SOME FUEL UP TO THE FOURTH FLOOR.

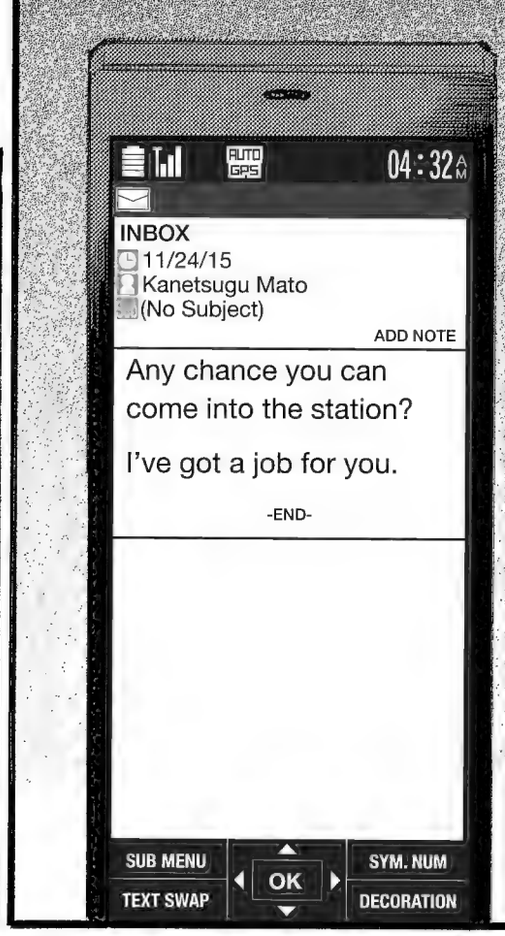
I CALLED HER IN.
THOUGHT OF A LITTLE JOB I'D LIKE HER TO HANDLE, SEE.


YEAH... RIGHT AFTER YOU TOOK OFF, I GOT A TEXT FROM MATO-SAN.
OOP.

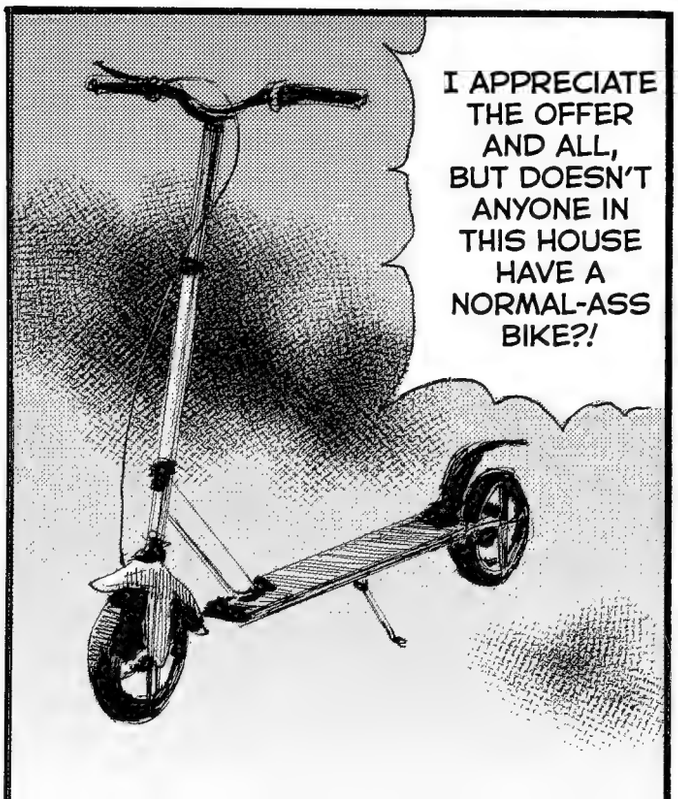
HUFF
HUFF
MINARE-SAN?!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE STREET LIGHTS ARE DOWN, SO I PROBABLY DON'T WANNA DRIVE ANY-WHERE UNTIL THE TRAFFIC OFFICERS COME OUT.
THERE'S A COIN-OPERATED PARKING LOT JUST UP THE STREET.
AND I CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY CAR PARKED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.
I DON'T KNOW IF THE MACHINES WILL BE ON, THOUGH.

KLK...
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, MAN...


04:32 AM
INBOX
11/24/15
Kanetsugu Mato
(No Subject)
ADD NOTE
Any chance you can come into the station?
I've got a job for you.
-END-
SUB MENU
TEXT SWAP
OK
SYM. NUM
DECORATION

WAIT HERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SORRY, BUT YOU CAN MISS ME WITH THAT BULLSHIT.
AND WHAT, *WALK* ALL THE WAY TO THE MRS?


I APPRECIATE THE OFFER AND ALL, BUT DOESN'T ANYONE IN THIS HOUSE HAVE A NORMAL-ASS BIKE?!

TAKE THIS!
IT'S MY MOTHER'S TRUSTY STEED, HYAKUDAN!

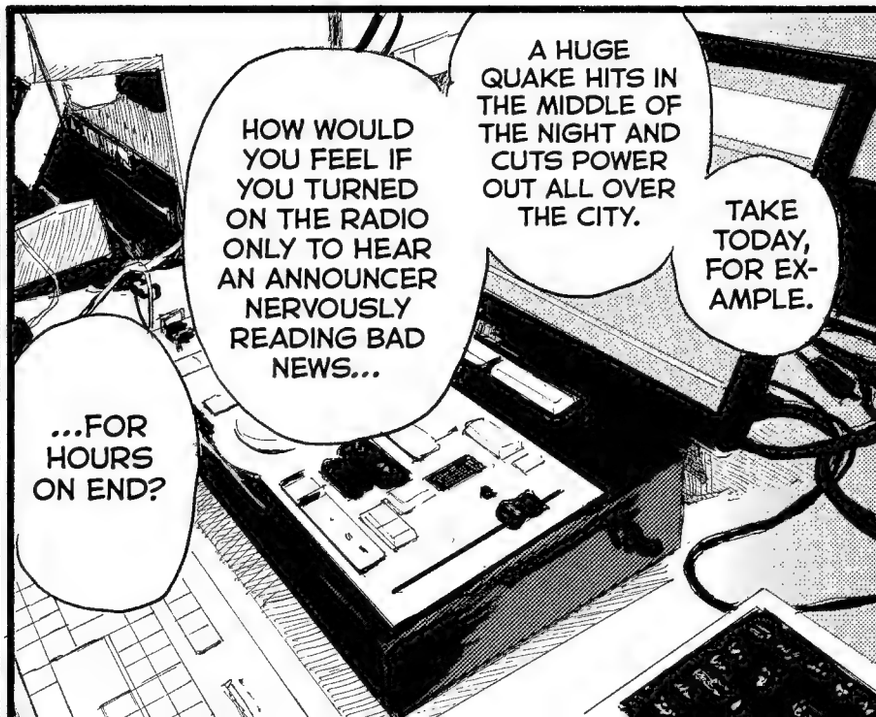
LET'S ROLL, MINARE.
WE'RE GONNA START A SPECIAL BROADCAST OF *WAVE* ASAP,
AND RUN NONSTOP UNTIL SIX.
ANY IDEA HOW MUCH OF A PAIN IT IS RIDING A SCOOTER ALL THE WAY FROM MOTO-MACHI TO FUSHIMI?
PLUS, I SAW A BUNCH OF PEOPLE DRIVING ANYWAY.
THIS BETTER BE IMPORTANT, MATO-SAN, OR I'M GONNA THROW SUCH A BITCHFIT YOU'LL THINK A QUAKE HIT THE STATION *TWICE.*
AND HOLD UP! DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS THE TIME FOR MY DUMBASS SHOW?!
NANBA! PRINT OUT ANY UPDATES FROM GODO NEWS AND REPLIES TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE AND BRING 'EM TO ME, WILL YA?
Y-YES, SIR!
...OKAY, MY BAD. I'M COOL WITH DOING GRUNT WORK.

UHH... LOCAL DISASTER REPORTING, I GUESS?
MINARE... WHAT D'YOU THINK'S THE BIGGEST ROLE RADIO PLAYS DURING CRISES LIKE THESE?
THAT'S ONE OF THE ONLY THINGS RADIO HAS GOING FOR IT OVER TV, RIGHT?

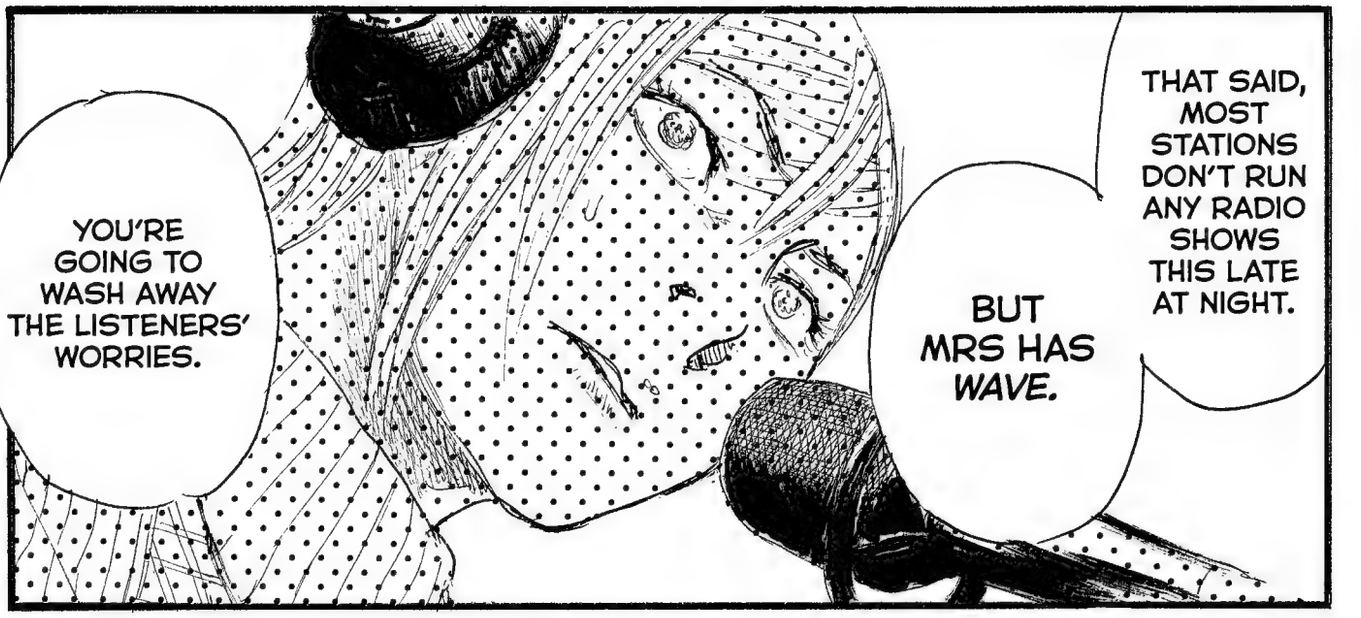
HUH?
ISN'T THAT WHAT WE ALWAYS DO?

UPLIFTING THE LIS-TENERS' SPIRITS.
THAT'S IMPORTANT TOO, SURE, BUT THERE'S ONE MORE THING:
DIDN'T CHISHIRO TELL YOU THAT?

MY MISTAKE. FORGOT WHO I WAS TALKING TO.
STOKED THAT I GET TO HAVE A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN A POST-APOCALYPTIC HELLSCAPE?
WELL, MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE OVER-WHELMED WITH FEAR AND ANXIETY.

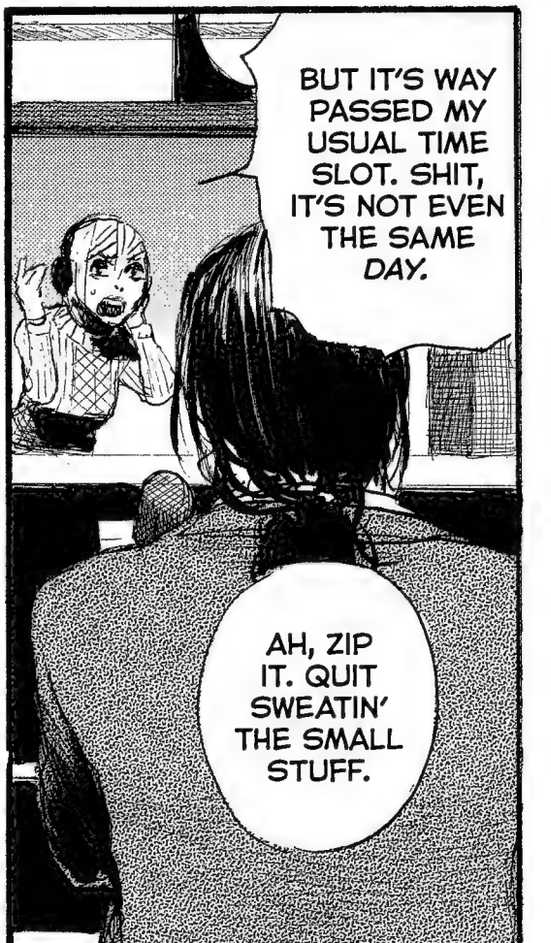

A HUGE QUAKE HITS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND CUTS POWER OUT ALL OVER THE CITY.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU TURNED ON THE RADIO ONLY TO HEAR AN ANNOUNCER NERVOUSLY READING BAD NEWS...
TAKE TODAY, FOR EX-AMPLE.
...FOR HOURS ON END?

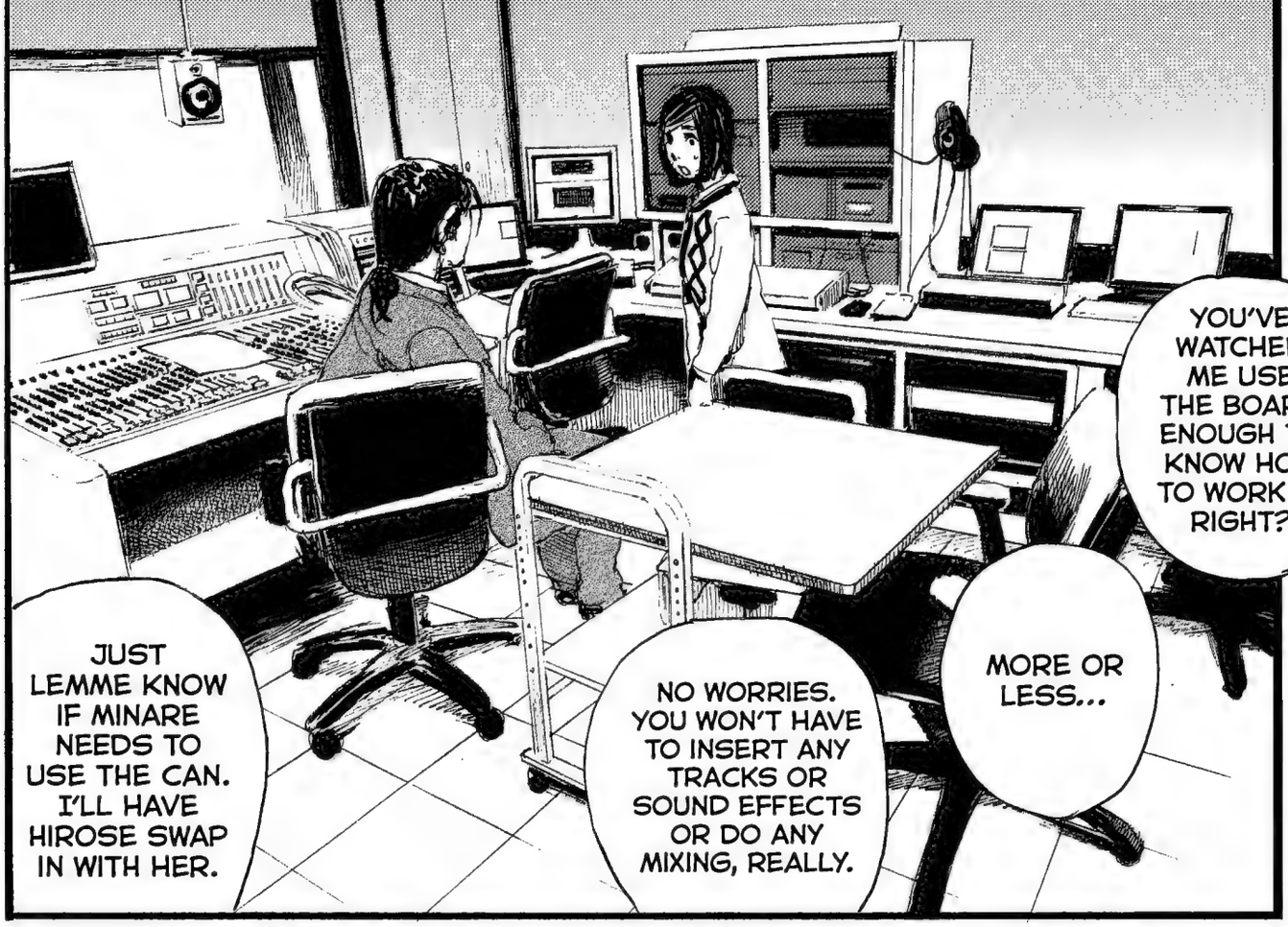
WE NEED TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT—THAT THEY'RE NOT ALONE.
IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT,
WE NEED TO *ACT* LIKE IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY ON PLANET EARTH.


YOU'RE GOING TO WASH AWAY THE LISTENERS' WORRIES.
BUT MRS HAS *WAVE.*
THAT SAID, MOST STATIONS DON'T RUN ANY RADIO SHOWS THIS LATE AT NIGHT.

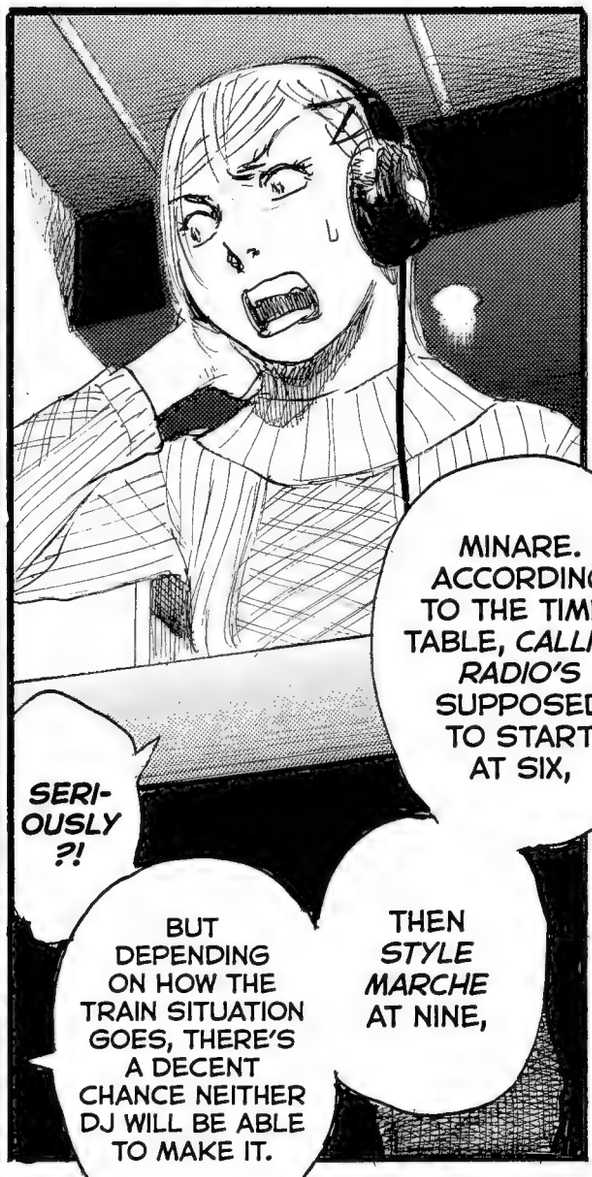
I'VE GOTTA HOLD DOWN THE FORT UNTIL KIKUKAWA-SAN OR THE CHIEF COMES IN.
YOU TAKE THE WHEEL.
WHAT?!

NANBA.
Y-YES?


BUT IT'S WAY PASSED MY USUAL TIME SLOT. SHIT, IT'S NOT EVEN THE SAME *DAY.*
AH, ZIP IT. QUIT SWEATIN' THE SMALL STUFF.

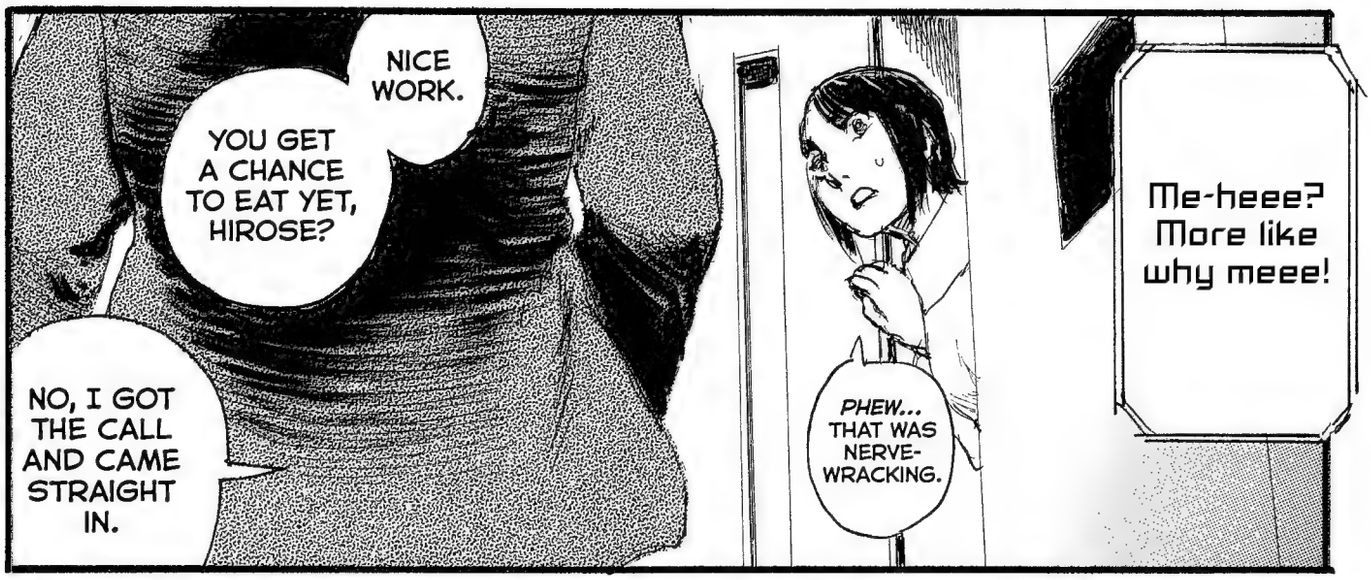

YOU'VE WATCHED ME USE THE BOARD ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW TO WORK IT, RIGHT?
MORE OR LESS...
NO WORRIES. YOU WON'T HAVE TO INSERT ANY TRACKS OR SOUND EFFECTS OR DO ANY MIXING, REALLY.
JUST LEMME KNOW IF MINARE NEEDS TO USE THE CAN. I'LL HAVE HIROSE SWAP IN WITH HER.

RELAX. CHISHIRO SAID IF IT COMES TO THAT, SHE'D WALK ALL THE WAY HERE IF SHE HAS TO.
AT ANY RATE, TRY TO HOLD OUT UNTIL SIX.


MINARE. ACCORDING TO THE TIME-TABLE, *CALLING RADIO'S* SUPPOSED TO START AT SIX,
SERI-OUSLY ?!
THEN *STYLE MARCHE* AT NINE,
BUT DEPENDING ON HOW THE TRAIN SITUATION GOES, THERE'S A DECENT CHANCE NEITHER DJ WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.

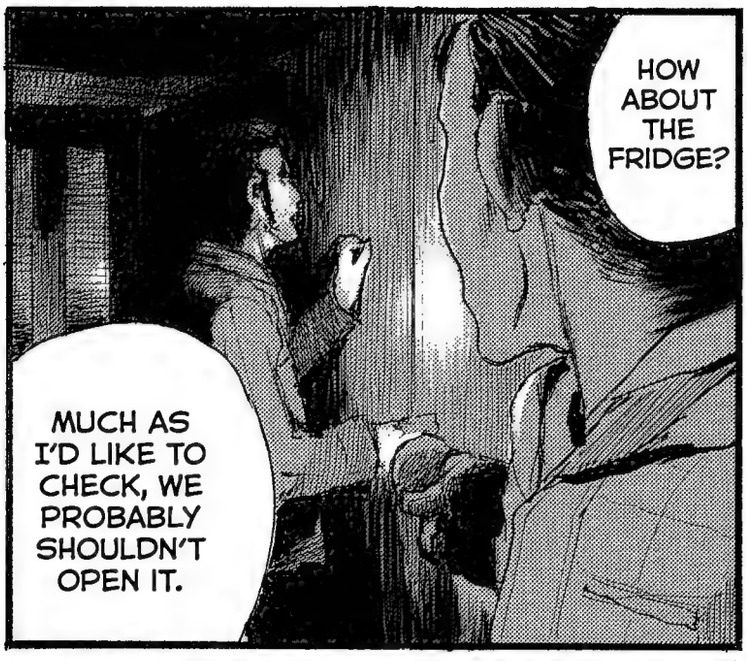
M'KAY, ALL YOURS.
WELL, HERE WE GO, MINARE-SAN. CUE INTRO!
UM... RIGHT!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!

MRS
Wave, Listen to Me-heee!
You're listening to Minare Koda's
Exclu-sive!

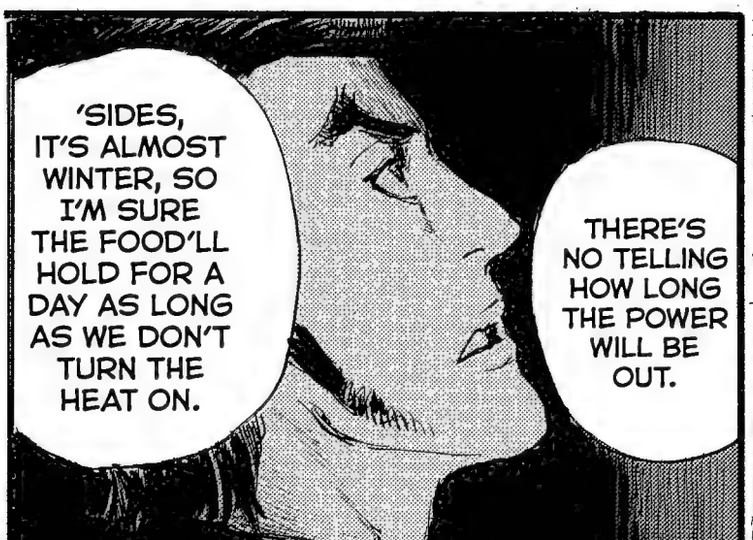

NICE WORK.
YOU GET A CHANCE TO EAT YET, HIROSE?
NO, I GOT THE CALL AND CAME STRAIGHT IN.
PHEW... THAT WAS NERVE-WRACKING.
Me-heee? More like why meee!

...BLEGH.
I FOUND TWO BOXES OF 'EM COLLECTING DUST NEXT TO THE GEN-ERATORS.
ONE OF THE RATIONS WE MADE HERE AT THE STATION A COUPLE YEARS AGO.
EMERGENCY RATION
HM? WHAT'S THIS?
HERE, HAVE A SNACK.

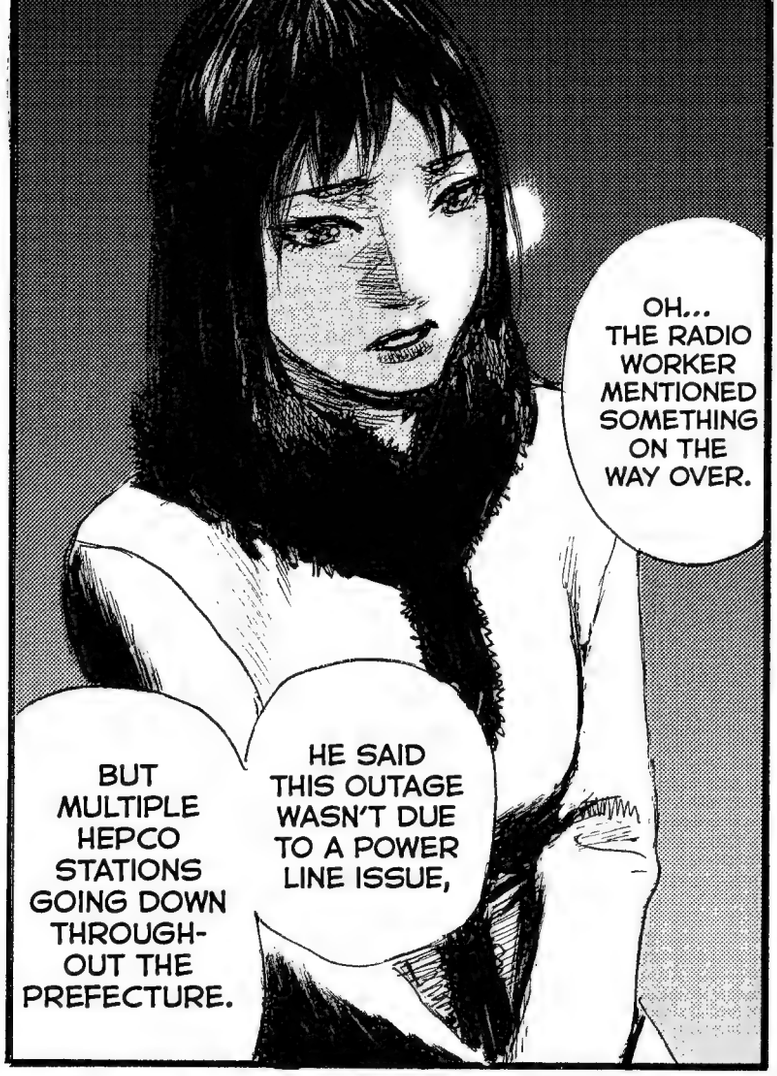
YOU MIGHT WANNA ASK HOW MANY *DIDN'T* BREAK.
IT'D TAKE LESS TIME TO COUNT.
HOW MANY BROKEN DISHES?
HOW IS IT OVER THERE, NAKAHARA-KUN?


HOW ABOUT THE FRIDGE?
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO CHECK, WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T OPEN IT.

AWFUL. JUST AWFUL...
MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO JUST GO BUY A NEW SET AT THE STORE. IF WE ORDER ONLINE, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THEY'LL TAKE TO GET HERE.
THEN AGAIN, I BET IT'S JUST AS BAD EVERY-WHERE...


'SIDES, IT'S ALMOST WINTER, SO I'M SURE THE FOOD'LL HOLD FOR A DAY AS LONG AS WE DON'T TURN THE HEAT ON.
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG THE POWER WILL BE OUT.

HELLO! IS ANYONE HERE?
OH! TACHI-BANA-SAN.
ARE THE TAXIS RUNNING? DON'T TELL ME YOU WALKED HERE.
UM... I ASKED SOMEONE FROM THE RADIO STATION TO GIVE ME A RIDE.
THE STA-TION?
YOU WERE WITH SOMEONE FROM MRS?
OH, UM... WELL...
AT THE TIME, MAKIE TACHIBANA HAD STILL YET TO TELL EITHER OF THEM ABOUT HER WEEKLY COMEDY SHOW WITH THE HCB RADIO PEOPLE.
NEVER MIND THAT. HOW'S THE STORE?
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...


OH... THE RADIO WORKER MENTIONED SOMETHING ON THE WAY OVER.
HE SAID THIS OUTAGE WASN'T DUE TO A POWER LINE ISSUE,
BUT MULTIPLE HEPCO STATIONS GOING DOWN THROUGH-OUT THE PREFECTURE.

ANYWAY, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY WE'LL BE CLOSED TODAY.
I SUP-POSE SO...

SO, WE SHOULDN'T EXPECT POWER TO COME BACK ANYTIME SOON. OR SO HE SAID...
YES.
FOR REAL?
...

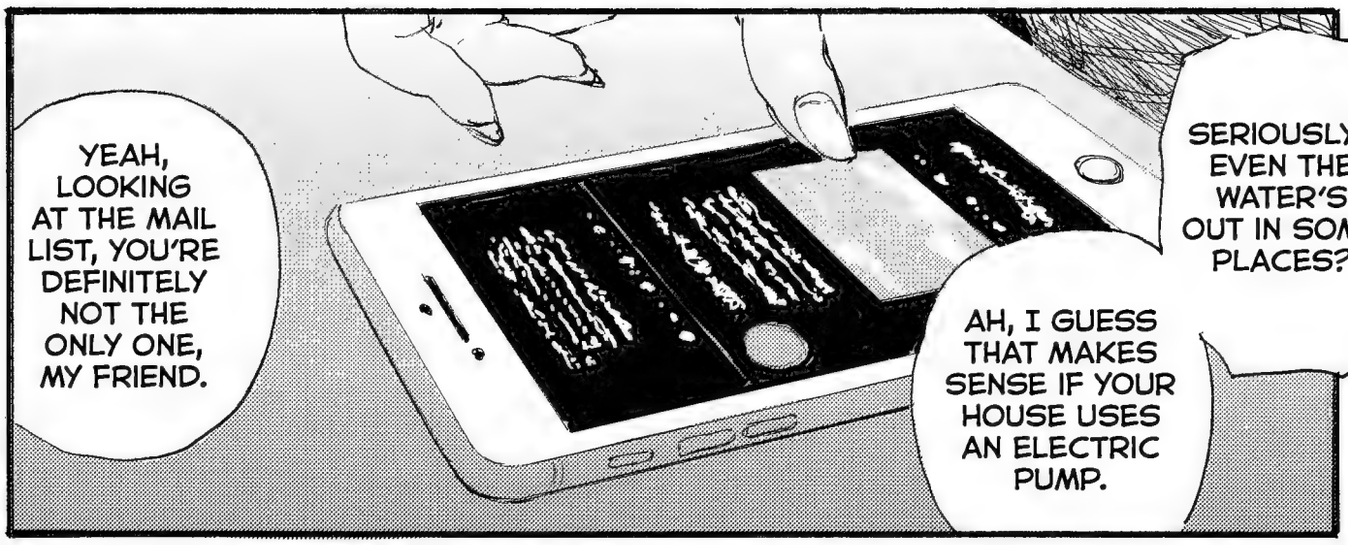
GO ON HOME, BUT WOULD YOU MIND COMING BACK AROUND TEN OR SO?
NAKA-HARA-KUN, TACHI-BANA-SAN.
WELL, SHIT...

A LONG-TERM OUTAGE COULD SPELL DISASTER FOR PEOPLE'S LIVES IN THE CITY.
NO RESTAU-RANTS OR STOVES MEANS THERE'S GOING BE A LOT OF HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED.
SO, WHY NOT? NO SENSE IN LETTING THE FOOD SPOIL ANYWAY.
IF THE LIGHTS AREN'T UP BY THEN,
LET'S GET A SOUP KITCHEN GOING, SHALL WE?

TAKARADA-SAN...
BOSS!
REALLY?! MAN...TALK ABOUT A CHANGE OF HEART.
AND HERE I THOUGHT PEOPLE WERE JUST WALLETS WITH LEGS TO YOU!
AH HA HA...
...WAIT, WHAT GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?

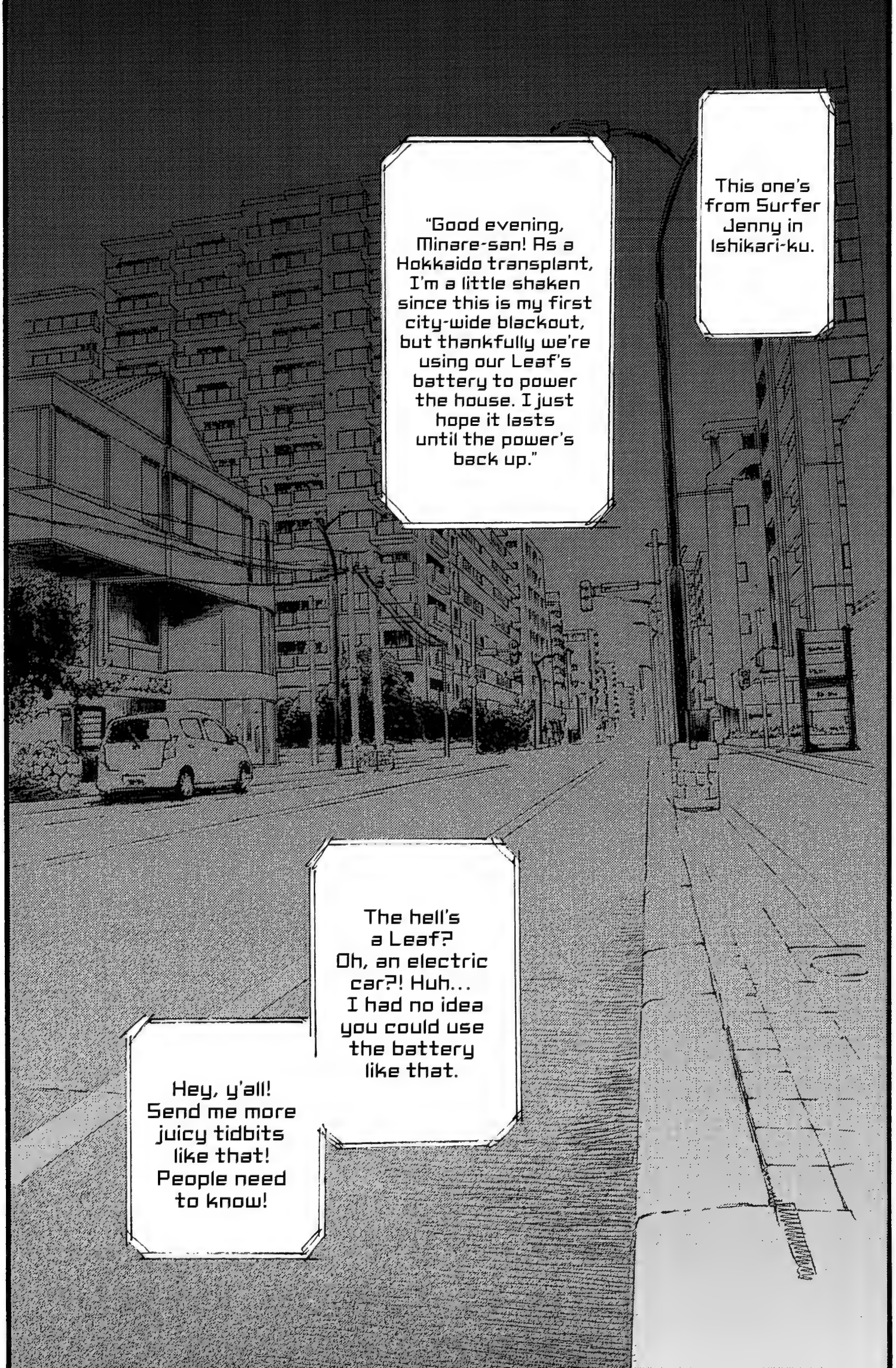
INTENSITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS. MAGNITUDE 7: ATSUMA. MAGNITUDE 6+: ABIRA AND MUKAWA. MAGNITUDE 6-: SAPPORO, HIGASHI-KU MOTOMACHI, SHIN-CHITOSE AIRPORT, HIDAKA-MONBETSU...
THIS EARTHQUAKE POSES NO RISK OF A TSUNAMI!

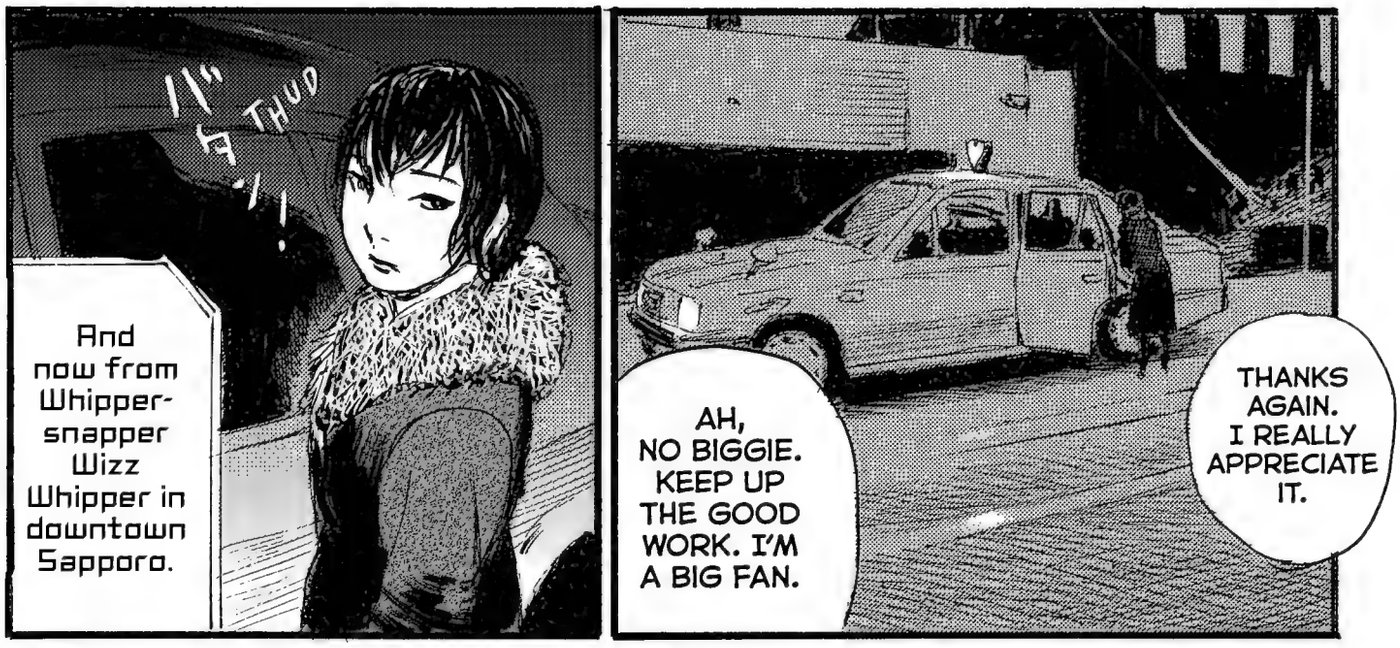
OKAY! AND NOW FOR A LETTER FROM OUR LISTENERS.
THIS ONE COMES FROM DUNWICH IN KITA-KU.
"I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR BROADCASTING THIS LATE. WITH NEITHER THE LIGHTS NOR MY WATER WORKING, I WAS FEELING REALLY HELPLESS."

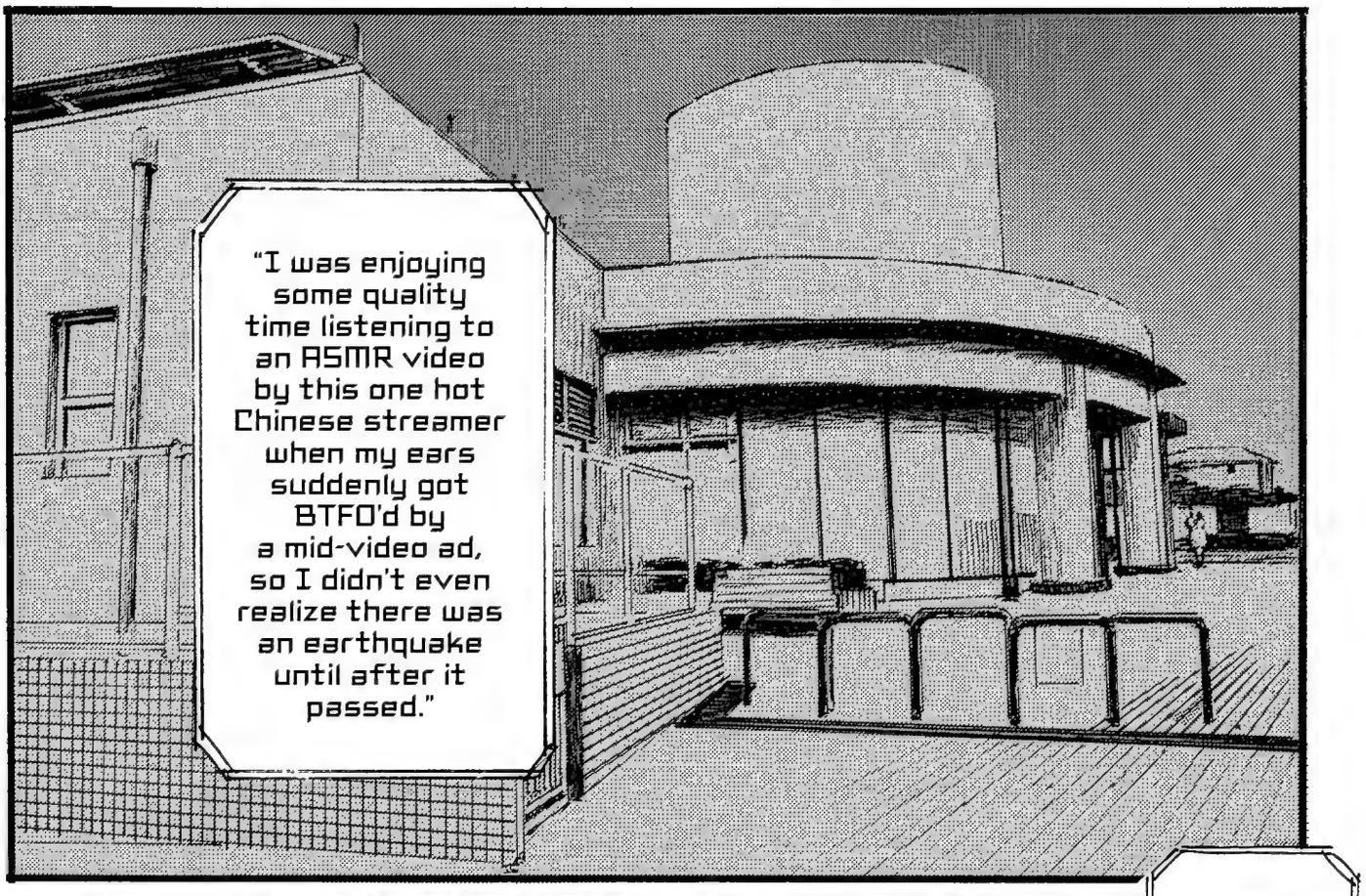

SERIOUSLY? EVEN THE WATER'S OUT IN SOME PLACES?
AH, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE IF YOUR HOUSE USES AN ELECTRIC PUMP.
YEAH, LOOKING AT THE MAIL LIST, YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT THE ONLY ONE, MY FRIEND.

BE A HERO AND LET PEOPLE IN NEED USE IT, WILL YOU?

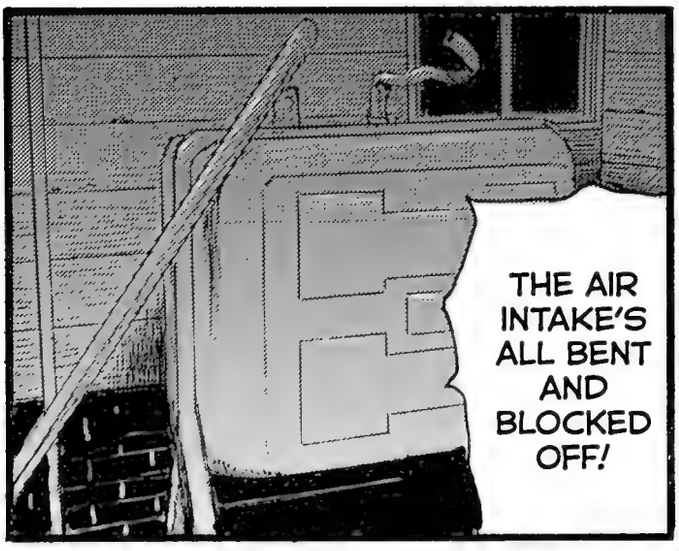
LISTEN, GUYS. DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THIS OUTAGE LASTS, WE MIGHT START SEEING MORE AND MORE OF THESE CASES,
SO IF ANYONE LISTENING HAS AN OUTDOOR TAP OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT,


This one's from Surfer Jenny in Ishikari-ku.
"Good evening, Minare-san! As a Hokkaido transplant, I'm a little shaken since this is my first city-wide blackout, but thankfully we're using our Leaf's battery to power the house. I just hope it lasts until the power's back up."
The hell's a Leaf? Oh, an electric car?! Huh... I had no idea you could use the battery like that.
Hey, y'all! Send me more juicy tidbits like that! People need to know!


11" THUD
And now from Whipper-snapper Wizz Whipper in downtown Sapporo.
AH, NO BIGGIE. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. I'M A BIG FAN.
THANKS AGAIN. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.


"I was enjoying some quality time listening to an ASMR video by this one hot Chinese streamer when my ears suddenly got BTFO'd by a mid-video ad, so I didn't even realize there was an earthquake until after it passed."

Ahh, no sweat. Just go to bed, man. I'm sure the grid will be back up before you even know it.
HEW
Worries? Does a dude like you even know what those are?
"Minare-san, would you be so kind as to soothe my ears and worries?"



- HOKKAIDO FUN FACT -
MOST HOUSES IN HOKKAIDO THAT ARE NOT EQUIPPED WITH AN ELECTRIC HEATER TEND TO USE EITHER A GAS STOVE OR HEATER FUELED WITH GAS PUMPED DIRECTLY FROM A 490L TANK LOCATED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE. IN THE EVENT THE INTAKE VALVE ATOP THE TANK IS OBSTRUCTED, THE GAS WILL CEASE TO FLOW, CREATING QUITE THE PREDICAMENT.

OH, DEAR. NO WONDER THE HEAT SHUT OFF.
WHAT ARE THE CHANCES SOMETHING AS THIN AS A LAUNDRY POLE WOULD LAND DIRECTLY ON THE INTAKE!
MOM, THIS IS SERIOUS!
IF A REPAIR-MAN DOESN'T COME OUT TO FIX IT SOME-TIME TODAY, WE'LL FREEZE TO DEATH!

YEAH, BUT...

NOW, DON'T PANIC.
IT'S THE DESIGNATED EMERGENCY SHELTER, RIGHT?
IF THEY DON'T MAKE IT OUT, LET'S JUST MOVE TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

...SHELTER?

Chapter 57 「I CAN'T STAY HERE.」

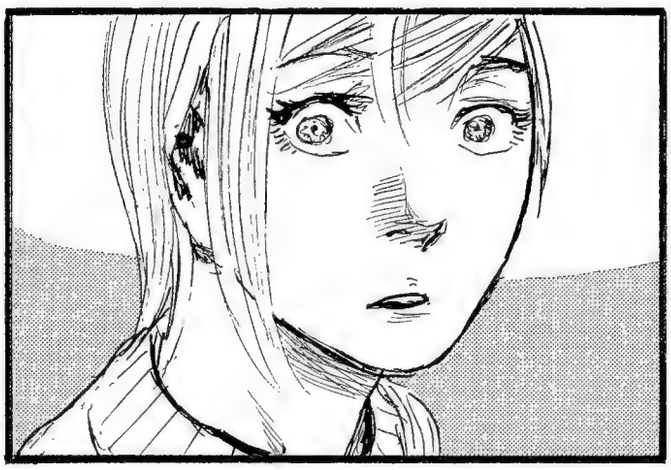
OOP!
HERE'S ONE FROM STARLIGHT-SAN IN EBETSU.
"GOOD MORNING, MINARE-SAN. I HAPPEN TO BE A POLICE OFFICER."
"I'M ABOUT TO HEAD OUT FOR TRAFFIC DIRECTION DUTY, AND BOY AM I TIRED."
THE BOYS IN BLUE ARE HITTING THE STREETS, EH? THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!
IF YOU THINK THAT'S BAD, I RODE HYAKUDAN ALL THE WAY FROM MOTOMACHI TO FUSHIMI BECAUSE I FIGURED I SHOULDN'T DRIVE SINCE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT.
OH, FYI, HYAKUDAN'S THE NAME OF A KICK SCOOTER I BORROWED.

"And that's all! I know the sun's coming up, but I encourage everyone to give it a shot! P.S...."
MINARE-SAN'S DOING A GREAT JOB JUGGLING SERIOUS AND PLAYFUL.
BUT JUST BOMBARD-ING THE LISTENERS WITH INFO'S A BAD WAY TO LIFT THEIR SPIRITS.
GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES, WE SHOULD PROBABLY FOCUS ON THE MORE HELPFUL WRITE-INS,
"I'M WRITING IN WITH A LIFE HACK FOR HOW TO MAKE A RUDIMENTARY LANTERN WITH A FLASHLIGHT AND A PLASTIC BOTTLE."
THIS ONE'S FROM BOOB POLICE IN ISHIKARI.
NICE NAME, DUDE. DON'T MAKE ME DOX YOUR ASS.
HONESTLY, I THINK YOU AND MAYBE MY CURRY COHORT N-KUN ARE ABOUT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO'D GET A MESSAGE LIKE THAT FROM THAT SCHLOCKFEST.
"IF PEOPLE BAND TOGETHER, WE CAN OVERCOME ANY ADVERSITY!"
"THIS IS A BIT OF A TANGENT, BUT I HAPPENED TO BE WATCHING THE JERUSALEM SCENE IN *WORLD WAR Z* WHEN THE QUAKE HIT, AND I HAVE TO SAY, THE DIRECTOR INCLUDED A MESSAGE THAT I THINK IS VERY RELEVANT IN THESE TRYING TIMES."
"I'M THINKING OF EVACUATING SOON TOO SINCE MY PLACE IS ALL-ELECTRIC."
THIS ONE'S FROM NATIONAL SPANIEL IN THE CHUO WARD.
THANKS FOR THE TIP!
'PRECIATE THE FEELS, THOUGH!

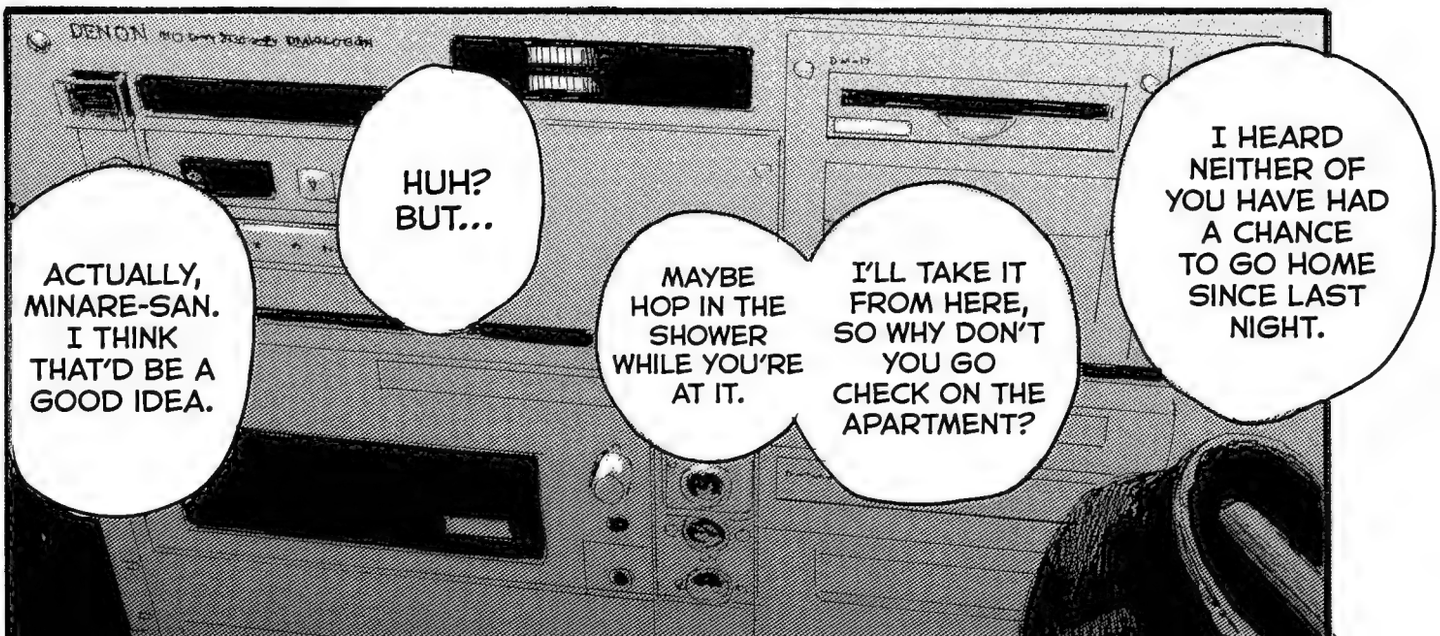
"AND JUST WHEN I FINALLY FOUND A GIRL WHO WAS RIGHT UP MY ALLEY, THE POWER WENT OUT. TALK ABOUT ROTTEN LUCK, HUH?"
"GET THIS. I WAS BROWSING FOR POTENTIAL WIVES ON XXXTEN'S O-NET WHEN THE QUAKE HIT, RIGHT?"
FLIK FLIK
チカ チカ!
!
Great job!
Quake / Traffic Info
6:30~ Calling Radio
9:00~ Style Marche
Just announce the above and you can wrap it up!
WHO CARES!
GET YOUR ASS TO A SHELTER, LOVER BOY!
Wish she'd used the mic since I'm wearing the cans and all...
I'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR TUNING IN TO THIS OUT-RAGEOUSLY LONG EPISODE OF *WAVE*...
AND ON THAT NOTE,
Great job!
Quake / Traffic Info
6:30~ Calling Radio
9:00~ Style Marche
Just announce the above and you can wrap it up!

In fact, I get the feeling this won't be my last time in the booth today, but eh, them's the breaks.
That said, I reckon both shows will be similarly off-the-cuff.
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE TONIGHT.
COMING UP AFTER A BRIEF BREAK FOR EARTH-QUAKE AND TRAFFIC INFO,
WE HAVE *CALLING RADIO* STARTING AT 6:30, FOLLOWED BY *STYLE MARCHÉ* AT 9:00.
TAK
'KAY, Y'ALL! DON'T LET SOME SHITTY LITTLE QUAKE SHAKE YOU UP, Y'HEAR? PEACE!
AHH... I'M BEAT.
As per an announcement made by the JMA at 6:10 A.M., the peak intensity of this earthquake is...
THIS IS AN EARTH-QUAKE UPDATE.

NICE WORK, KODA-SAN.
OH, UHH... THANKS.



IT WAS A GOOD SHOW.


DENON
I HEARD NEITHER OF YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO GO HOME SINCE LAST NIGHT.
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO CHECK ON THE APARTMENT?
MAYBE HOP IN THE SHOWER WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
HUH? BUT...
ACTUALLY, MINARE-SAN. I THINK THAT'D BE A GOOD IDEA.

KIKUKAWA-SAN! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.
MORNING, KANE-CHAN.
BARELY. I TOOK A CAB OVER, BUT *YEESH.*
TRAFFIC WAS A NIGHTMARE, WHAT WITH THE TRAINS DOWN AND EVERYONE GOING BY HAND SIGNALS.
BUT FROM THE LOOK OUTSIDE THE CAR, THE DAMAGE WASN'T AS BAD AS I EXPECTED.
SURE, DOWN-TOWN, MAYBE.
THE JMA JUST PUT OUT AN UPDATE TOO.
THEY SAY THE QUAKE TOPPED SEVEN IN SHIKANUMA NEAR ATSUMA.
SEVEN? GOOD LORD.
ATSUMA, ABIRA, AND MUKAWA GOT THE WORST OF IT.
WORD IS THEY'RE SEEING WIDESPREAD LIQUEFACTION AND STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

GOING BY THE NHK FEED AND SOCIAL MEDIA, IT LOOKS LIKE ALL TRAIN AND BUS SERVICE IN HOKKAIDO IS SUSPENDED.
ALL FLIGHTS AT SHIN-CHITOSE HAVE BEEN GROUNDED, WITH MOST OTHER AIRPORTS FOLLOWING SUIT.
ASAHIKAWA'S THE ONLY ONE RUNNING ON SCHEDULE. OH, AND THE FERRIES ARE ALL OPERATING NORMALLY.
WHILE THE POWER'S STILL OUT EVERYWHERE, OVER 30 CITIES HAVE REPORTED WATER OUTAGES TOO.
IS THE DAMAGE BAD ANYWHERE BESIDES NEAR THE EPICENTER?
UMM...
HELLO?
...OH, HEY. WHAT'S UP?
EVERY-THING OKAY ON YOUR END?
HOW'S HITOMI? ...AH.
MUST BE OHORI-CHAN.
I was supposed to come in at seven today,
but I don't think that's going to happen.
HUH? WHY NOT?
I KNOW THE TRAINS ARE DOWN, BUT CAN'T YOU TAKE THE CAR?

WAIT...
YOU THINK THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE SAME BOAT?
Just about every working parent with a toddler, I imagine.
THE DAYCARE CALLED EARLIER.
THEY SAID THEY'RE CLOSED UNTIL THE POWER'S BACK UP.
AND I COULDN'T JUST ASK THEM TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION, SO...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE'D BRING THAT UP *NOW?*
AH, Y'KNOW. MISATTRI-BUTION OF AROUSAL AND ALL THAT.
WELL? IS SHE LOOKING TO BURY THE HATCHET?
IN THAT CASE, JUST TELL HER TO BRING THE TYKE IN WITH HER.
HUH?
YEAH, THAT'S A PICKLE, ALL RIGHT.
...*AHH.* GOTCHA.

PUT THE WORD OUT THAT FOLKS ARE FREE TO BRING THEIR KIDS HERE.
BETWEEN THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE OUTAGES, YOU CAN BET DAY-CARES, SCHOOLS, FAMILY CENTERS, AND BABYSITTERS ARE ALL TAKING THE DAY OFF.

OH, GOSH! I LEFT MY NURSING COVER AT HOME!
I HAVE ONE YOU CAN USE.
WELL, AIN'T THIS A SIGHT...
THIS MIGHT JUST MAKE US THE MOST PROGRESSIVE RADIO STATION IN HOKKAIDO.
ALL DONE. IZZIN DAH BETTUH?

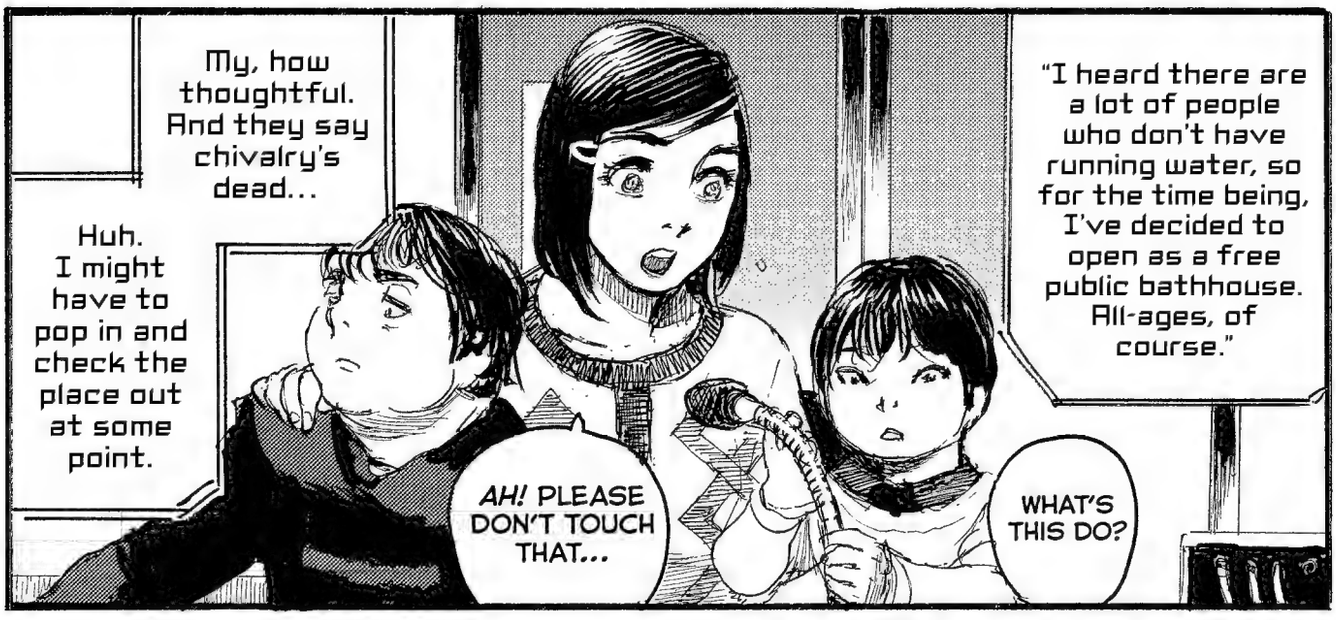
ACTUALLY, SHE WAS LAUGHING IT UP AND LOVING EVERY MINUTE.
MORE LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE, EH?

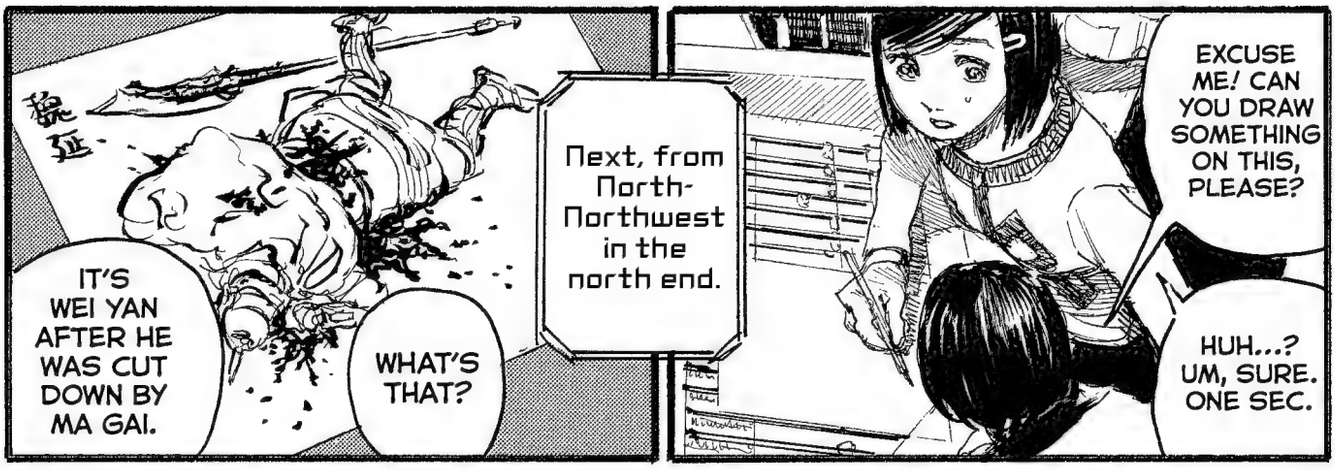
I BET THE QUAKE AND OUTAGE COMBO HAD HER SHOOK, HUH?

DADDY!
THERE'S MY GIRL. DON'T RUN AROUND IN THE OFFICE, OKAY?

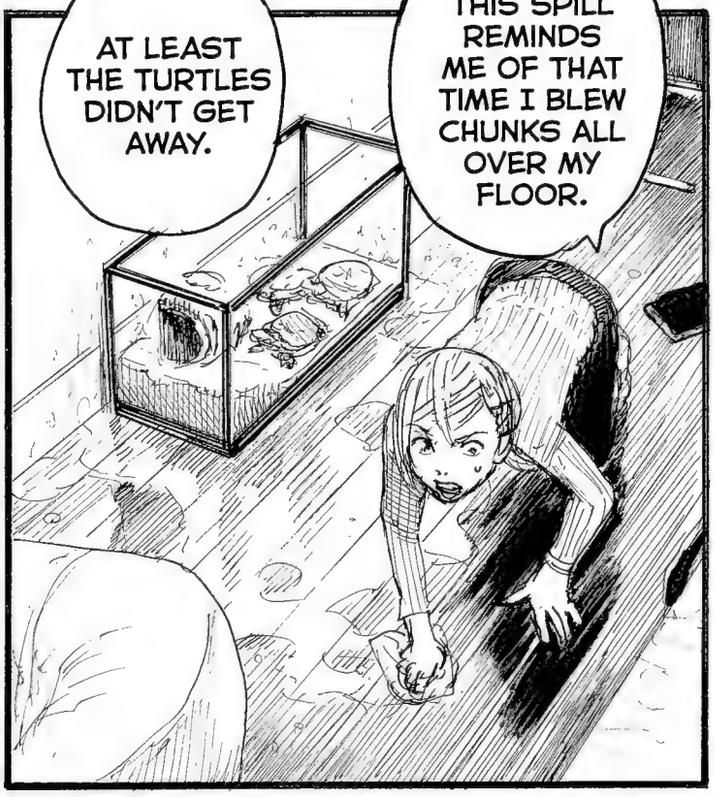
FEATURING HOKKAIDO'S LOUDEST LOUDMOUTH.
THIS IS *CALLING RADIO AT SEVEN!*

TAKING THE WHEEL IS YOURS TRULY, MADOKA CHISHIRO. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE IN-CONVENIENCE.
...OR SO IT SHOULD BE, BUT MANAMON-SAN REGRETTABLY CAN'T MAKE IT THIS MORNING.
Hey! That's not a toy!
FROM BISHA-BISHAMONTEN IN DOWNTOWN SAPPORO. "PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MADOKA-SAN. I'M THE 38-YEAR OLD PROPRIETOR OF AN ADULT BATHHOUSE IN THE SUSUKINO DISTRICT."

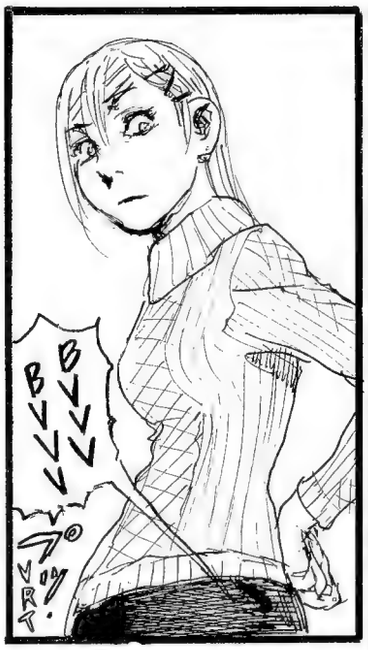

My, how thoughtful. And they say chivalry's dead...
"I heard there are a lot of people who don't have running water, so for the time being, I've decided to open as a free public bathhouse. All-ages, of course."
Huh. I might have to pop in and check the place out at some point.
AH! PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THAT...
WHAT'S THIS DO?


IT'S WEI YAN AFTER HE WAS CUT DOWN BY MA GAI.
WHAT'S THAT?
Next, from North-Northwest in the north end.
EXCUSE ME! CAN YOU DRAW SOMETHING ON THIS, PLEASE?
HUH...? UM, SURE. ONE SEC.

mind the water, woman.
WHO KNOWS WHEN MIZUHO'LL BE BACK, SO I'LL JUST GIVE THESE GUYS A MOUNTAIN OF MUNCHIES.


AT LEAST THE TURTLES DIDN'T GET AWAY.
UGH. THIS SPILL REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME I BLEW CHUNKS ALL OVER MY FLOOR.

FLIK
HUH? DID SOMEONE CALL ME?


BLLLL
BLLLL
VRRT.

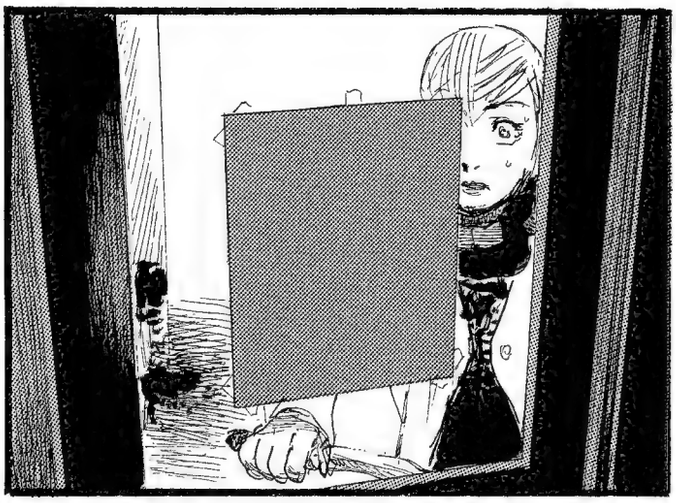
I MEAN, MY FREELOADER CONSCIENCE IS GONNA MAKE ME CLEAN IT UP BEFORE MIZUHO GETS HOME ANYWAY.
OKAY, KITCHEN. FUCK IT! LATER!

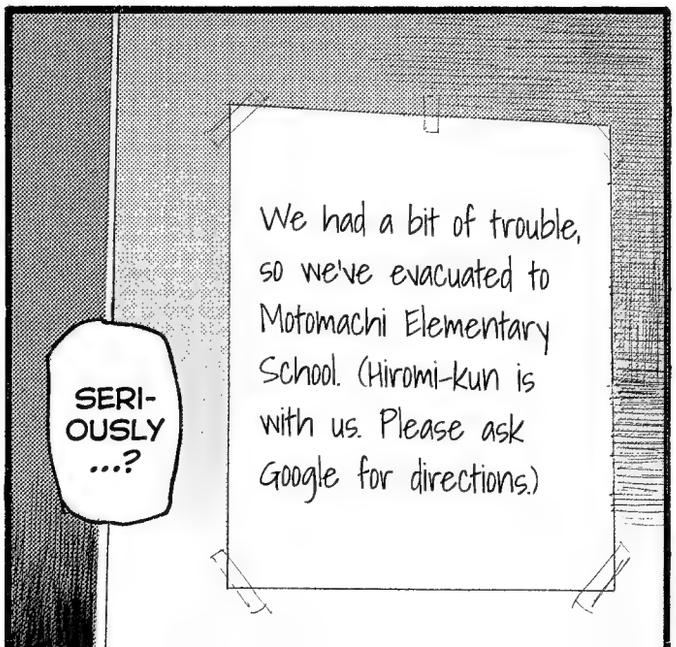
6:42
INBOX
11/24 (Tues) 06:42 Mama Saiki
11/24 (Tues) 06:09 Mama Saiki
11/24 (Tues) 05:25 Mama Saiki
11/24 (Tues) 04:59 Mama Saiki
11/24 (Tues) 04:31 Mama Saiki
11/24 (Tues) 04:12 Mama Saiki
24 (Tues) 03:55 Mama Saiki
SYM
YEESH. CREEPY...

HYAAAH!
NO HOT WATER, EITHER?!
6:50
SENT
15/11/24
To Mama Saiki
Sorry I couldn't get back to you sooner! I accidentally drove into a fissure and knocked myself out cold, but we're all okay! Hiromi-kun went to the store to buy a portable charger for his phone. I'll get in touch as soon as he's back!
-END-
BETTER TEXT HER AT LEAST.
SHOWER. YEAH, GREAT IDEA...
I CAN'T STOP FUCKING SHIVERING! BRRRF.
I HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK, AND I HAVE TO RIDE THIS DUMBASS SCOOTER ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ONOS'.
PLEASE DON'T LET ME GET PNEUMONIA ...
MAYHAP DUE TO SLEEPLESSNESS, IT HADN'T EVEN OCCURRED TO MINARE TO SIMPLY CALL A TAXI AND PACK THE SCOOTER IN THE TRUNK.

I'M GONNA HURL...
UGH... THE AIR'S SO DRY.
HUEH...
HUFF... HEEF...

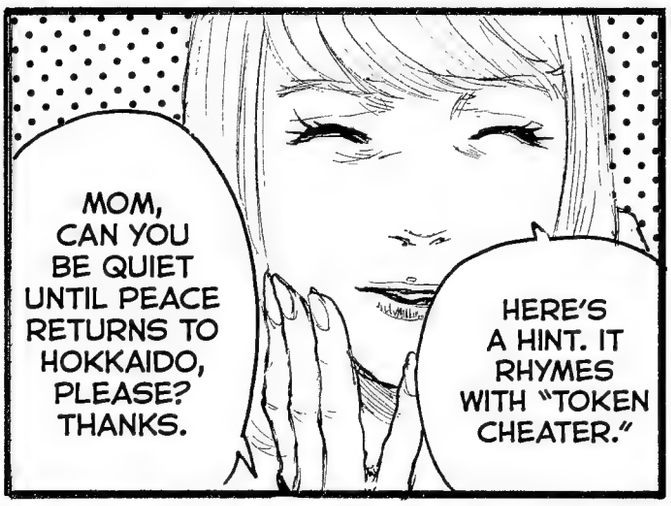
GRAAAAH!

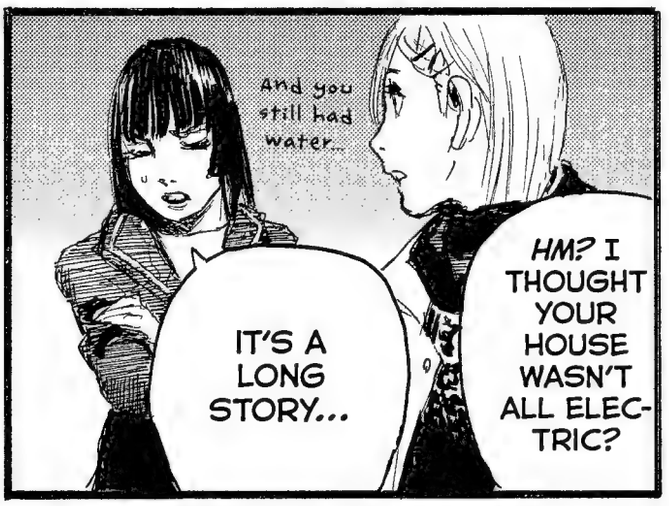



SERI-OUSLY ...?
We had a bit of trouble, so we've evacuated to Motomachi Elementary School. (Hiromi-kun is with us. Please ask Google for directions.)

MHM. DAMN FLOOR FELL THROUGH.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE HE'S A NEW CAT...
HE DIDN'T BUDGE FOR A WHILE, BUT HE EVENTUALLY GOT UP TO EAT AND USE THE BATHROOM, SO I THINK HE'LL BE FINE.
A-ABOUT AN HOUR AGO...
HIROMI! THANK GOD. WHEN'D YOU COME TO?
KODA-SAN! OVER HERE!
OH!

PEOPLE JUST KEEP POURING IN, HUH?
THEY MUST BE PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE WATER OR LIVE IN FULLY-ELECTRIC APARTMENTS.
EVEN BUILDINGS WITH BACKUP POWER PROBABLY AREN'T EQUIPPED FOR LONG OUTAGES LIKE THIS.

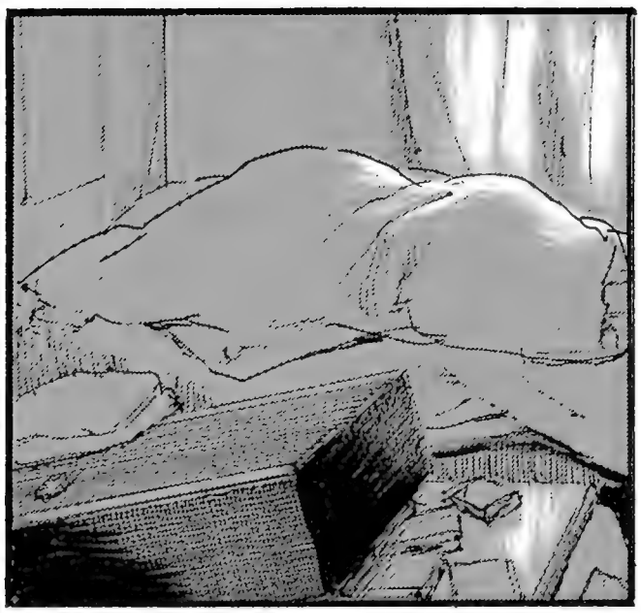

HERE'S A HINT. IT RHYMES WITH "TOKEN CHEATER."
MOM, CAN YOU BE QUIET UNTIL PEACE RETURNS TO HOKKAIDO, PLEASE? THANKS.


HM? I THOUGHT YOUR HOUSE WASN'T ALL ELECTRIC?
IT'S A LONG STORY...
And you still had water...

MAYBE HE GOT LOST...

SAY, WHERE'S JUNICHI-KUN?
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO USE THE RESTROOM, BUT HE'S BEEN GONE FOR OVER HALF AN HOUR.

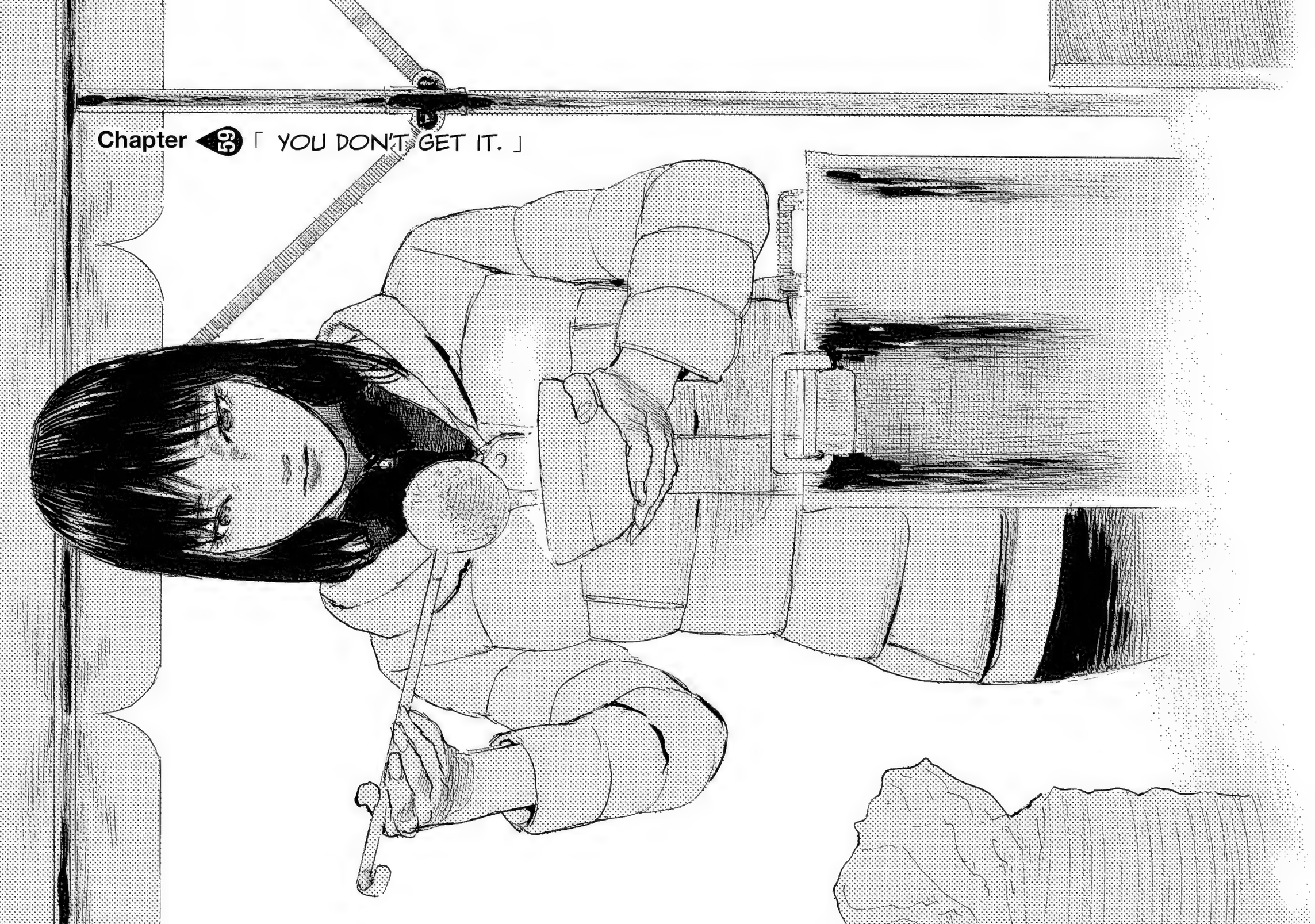
...I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE.
SHUT UP...



TOO MANY PEOPLE, NOT ENOUGH WALLS...
HELL NO.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M STAYING IN THAT PLACE.
EVEN IF YOUR REAL SISTER'S THERE?
BULLSHIT. THAT'S JUST A GUY IN DRAG. SCREW YOU FOR FOOLING ME, BY THE WAY.
FORGET IT. I'M GONNA LIE HERE AND WAIT FOR THE COLD TO TAKE ME.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
COULD YOU BE ANY MORE OF A PAIN IN THE ASS?
Y'KNOW, FUCK THIS!
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOU! TIME TO OPEN A CAN OF WHOOP-ASS!
PRETTY SURE THIS MAKES THE FIFTH TIME YOU'VE BEAT ME UP...

wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

Chapter 59 「 YOU DON'T GET IT. 」



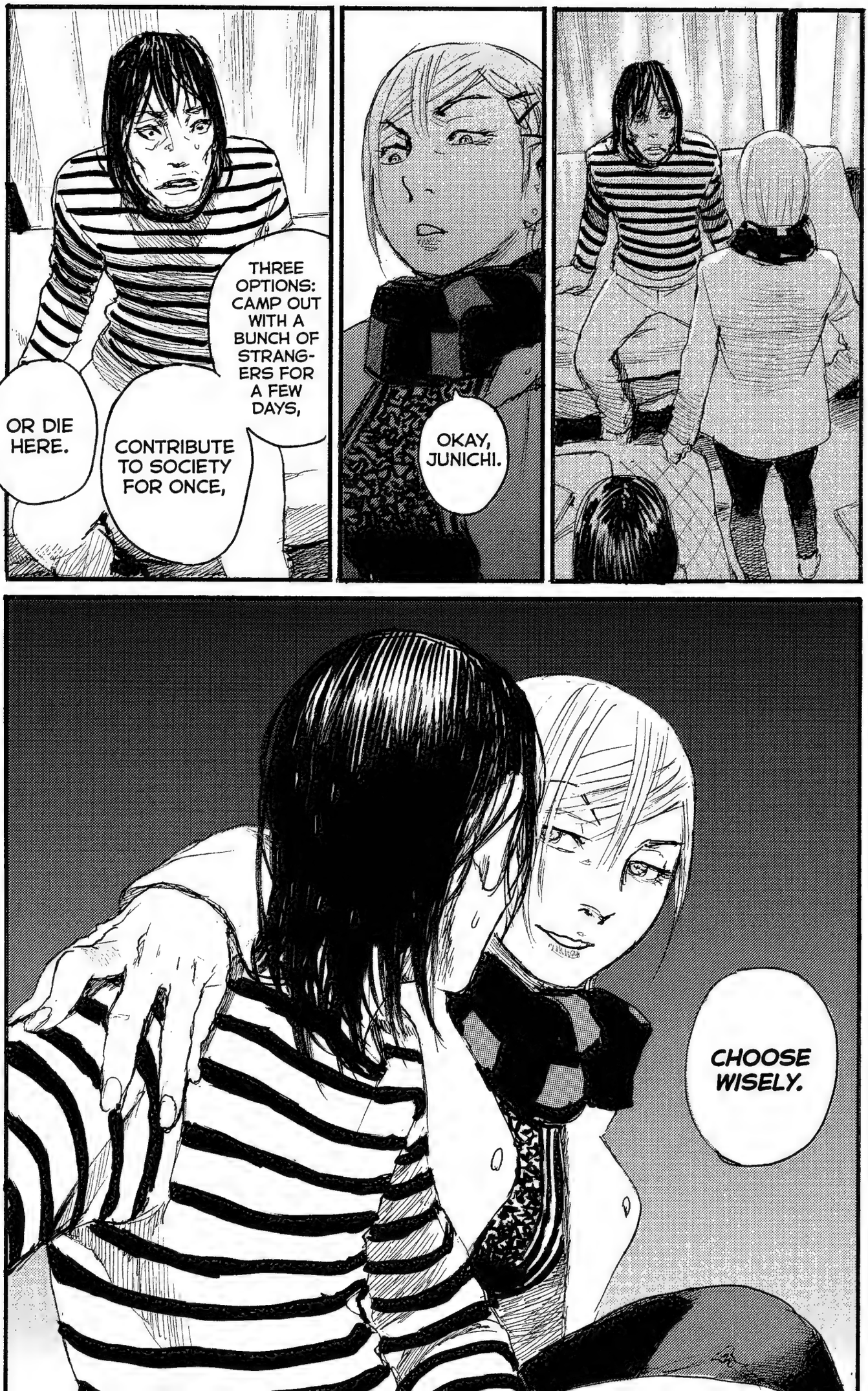
JUNICHI-SAN!

YOU'LL FREEZE TO DEATH IF YOU STAY HERE.
COME ON. LET'S GO BACK TO THE SHELTER.

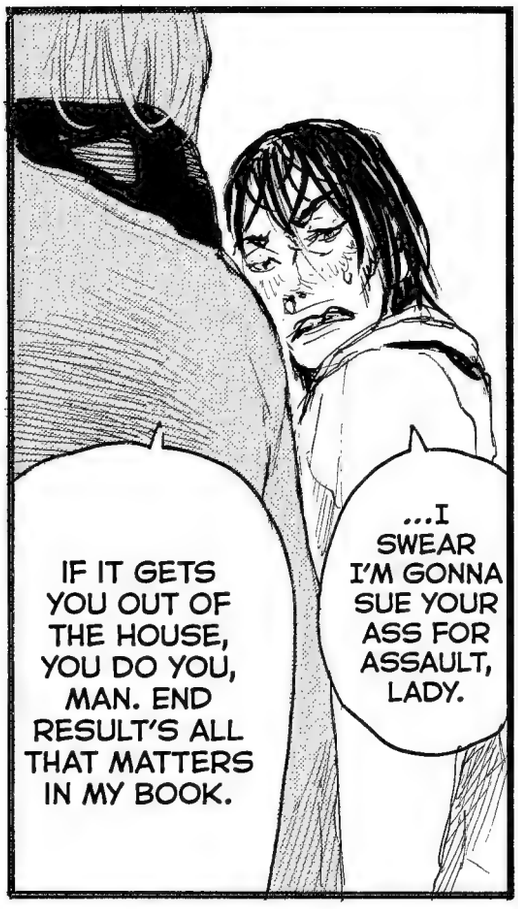
HIROMI...

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, ALL RIGHT?
IT'S FINE. I'M NOT MAD AT YOU ANY MORE.
WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANNA BE AROUND MY DEAD SISTER'S IMPOSTER?
I PROMISE I'LL STAY WITH YOU UNTIL THINGS SETTLE DOWN. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO!
Plan S...?
SAYS THE LADY WHO WON'T EVEN ACT LIKE SHE'S SORRY...
IF YOU'RE GONNA RAG ON ANYONE, IT SHOULD BE ME!
PLAN S WAS MY IDEA! I'M THE ONE WHO DRAGGED HIROMI INTO THIS!
YEAH, JUNICHI!
Hey, Minare-san? It's Nakahara.
HELLO ?
CHA CHA LA CHA-CHA
CHA CHA LA CHA-CHA

I WAS LISTENING TO YOUR SHOW EARLIER, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE CHISHIRO-SAN TOOK OVER, SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A CALL.
EVERYTHING OKAY ON YOUR END? ...OH, GOOD.
SO, UM, I ACTUALLY HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
SINCE WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THE POWER WILL BE OUT AND ALL...
...ME, BOSS, AND TACHIBANA-SAN ARE THINKING OF OPENING A SOUP KITCHEN.
IF YOU'RE DONE BROAD-CASTING FOR THE DAY, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING US A HAND?
JUST TELL HER TO GET HER TUSH OVER HERE! I'M PAYING THAT SLACKER GOOD MONEY!
AAACTUALLY, DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS PLAY OUT, I MIIIGHT HAVE TO GO BACK ON THE AIR.
SORRY. TRUTH IS I'M FREE, BUT SERI-OUSLY...
I'M TOO DRAINED FOR THAT SHIT!
OH!
HOLD ON.
DO Y'ALL JUST NEED MORE BODIES?


THREE OPTIONS: CAMP OUT WITH A BUNCH OF STRANG-ERS FOR A FEW DAYS,
CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY FOR ONCE,
OR DIE HERE.
OKAY, JUNICHI.
CHOOSE WISELY.

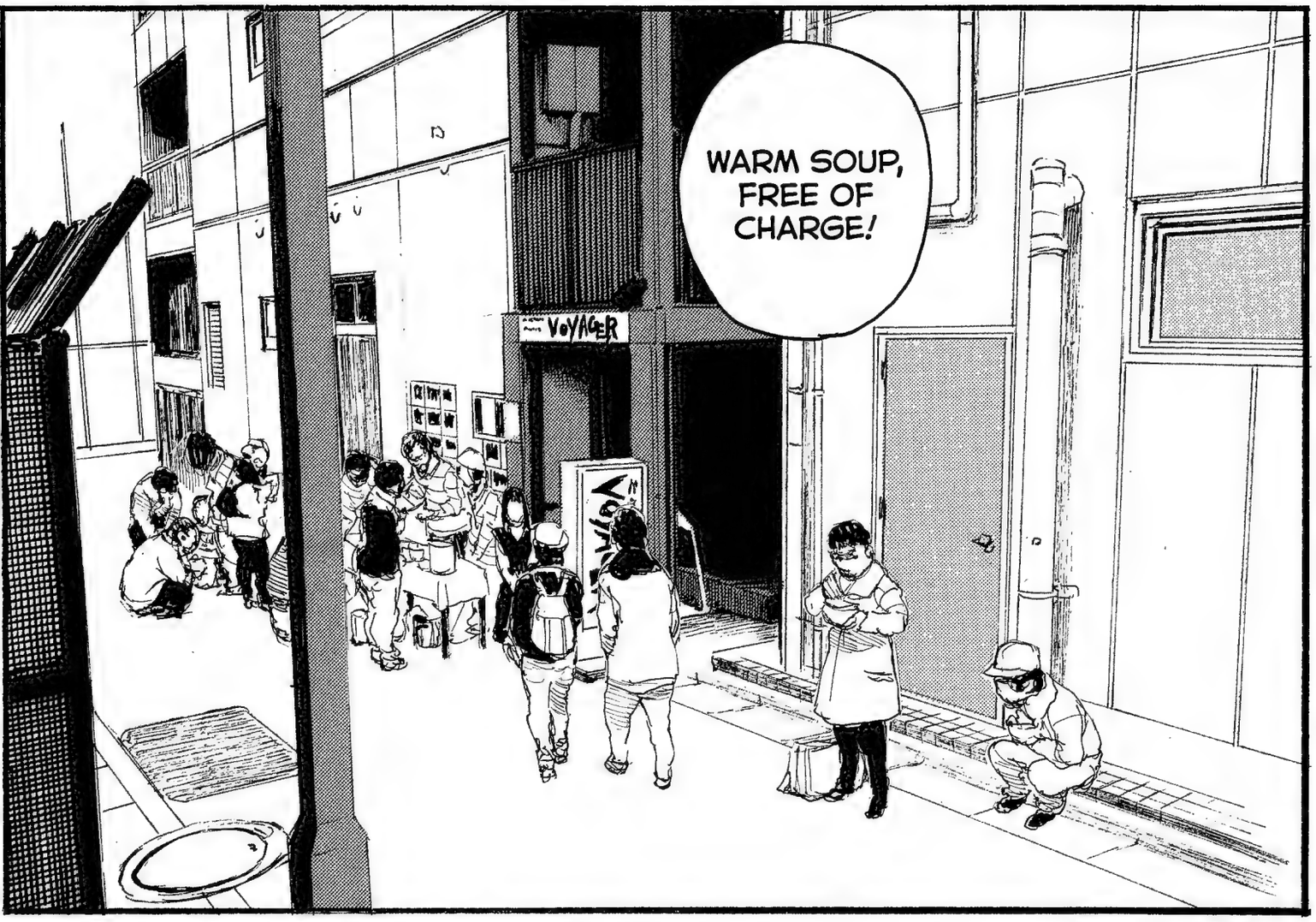
"Choose"?


IF IT GETS YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE, YOU DO YOU, MAN. END RESULT'S ALL THAT MATTERS IN MY BOOK.
...I SWEAR I'M GONNA SUE YOUR ASS FOR ASSAULT, LADY.

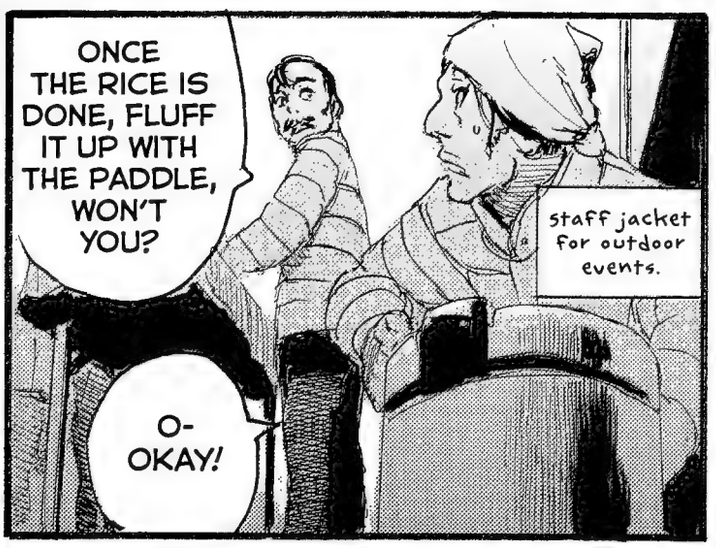
UHH. EVERYONE, MEET JUNICHI ONO. HE'LL BE YOUR WORK-HORSE FOR THE DAY IN MY PLACE.
WHAT'S WITH THE BRUISES?
VOYAGER

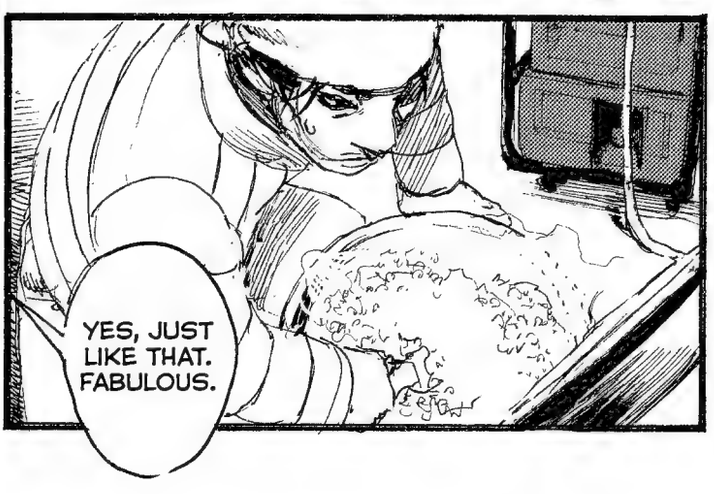
RELAX.
I ONLY BROUGHT YOU BECAUSE I KNEW THEY'D MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME.
THIS IS THE OWNER, TAKARADA-SAN. HE'S A HYPER HANDSY HOMO, SO HE'S BASICALLY NICE TO GUYS BY DEFAULT.
THE HEAD COOK, NAKAHARA-KUN, HAS CURRY FOR BRAINS AND WOULDN'T HARM A FLY.
TACHIBANA-SAN KINDA HAS A BIT OF A VINDICTIVE SIDE, BUT SHE'S PERFECTLY PLEASANT TO STRANGERS, AT LEAST.
VIN-DICTIVE?
AH!
SHIT, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE NOT EVEN ONE OF THOSE SHUT-INS WHO GOT BULLIED SO HARD BY COWORKERS THEY GET TOO SCARED TO GO OUTSIDE, ARE YOU?!
GOD, YOU'RE PATHETIC!
ANYONE EVER TELL YOU WHAT A BITCH YOU ARE?
C'MON, JUNICHI.
LET'S DO IT.
I'LL HELP OUT TOO.

NICE ONE, HIROMI!
I MEAN, THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG ALREADY, BUT EH...
THANK GOD WE RECORDED LINES FOR A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT SCENARIOS.
A DREAMLAND OF BREAD AND CURRY. VOYAGER
HM? WHOSE VOICE WAS THAT?
H-HEY!
BUT I...
OPERATION NORTH WIND & THE SUN: COMPLETE!
SURE, LET'S GO WITH THAT.
TH-THANK YOU...FOR HAVING ME.
UM...


WARM SOUP, FREE OF CHARGE!
VOYAGER

FREE SOUP CURRY!
HE LOOKS MORE LIKE A BARKER FOR A MAID CAFÉ...


ONCE THE RICE IS DONE, FLUFF IT UP WITH THE PADDLE, WON'T YOU?
staff jacket for outdoor events.
O-OKAY!


YES, JUST LIKE THAT. FABULOUS.

HELLO, EVERYONE! I'M HERE TO HELP.
MY, HOW GENEROUS.
A DREAMLAND OF BREAD AND CURRY.
OH, UM... PROBABLY ALL OF TODAY AND TOMORROW, I THINK...
THANK YOU, DEARIE. MAY I ASK HOW LONG YOU'LL BE OPEN?

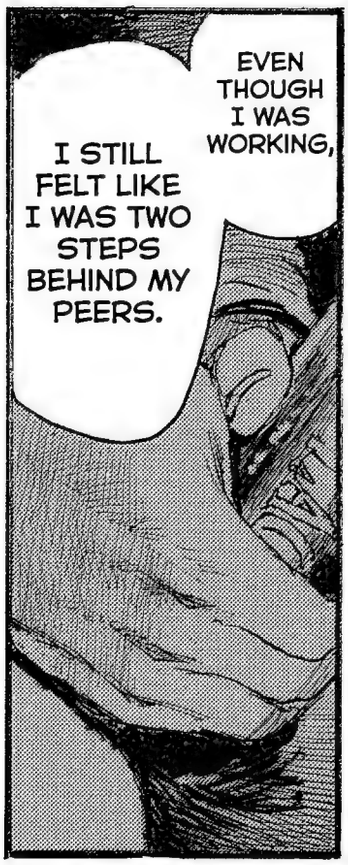
HUH? WHO'S HE...?
SORRY I'M LATE. IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO CLEAN UP THE HOUSE.
IF IT ISN'T TORU-SAN!
OH, HEY!

NOW THAT WE HAVE MORE HANDS, LET'S HAVE TWO PEOPLE GO ON BREAK AT A TIME.
BUT YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME!
STARE
OH, DON'T BE SILLY! YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE STORE. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU *WORK* HERE!
yeah, you didn't have to come...

OH... Y-YES, I'M FINE.
PHEW.
STILL GOOD?

YOU'RE WAY MORE OF A HARD WORKER THAN MINARE-SAN MADE YOU OUT TO BE ANYWAY.
HM? NAH.
UM... AM...
AM I GETTING IN THE WAY AT ALL?

UM...
I...
WELL...
HARD TO BELIEVE YOU WERE A HERMIT FOR SO LONG, REALLY.

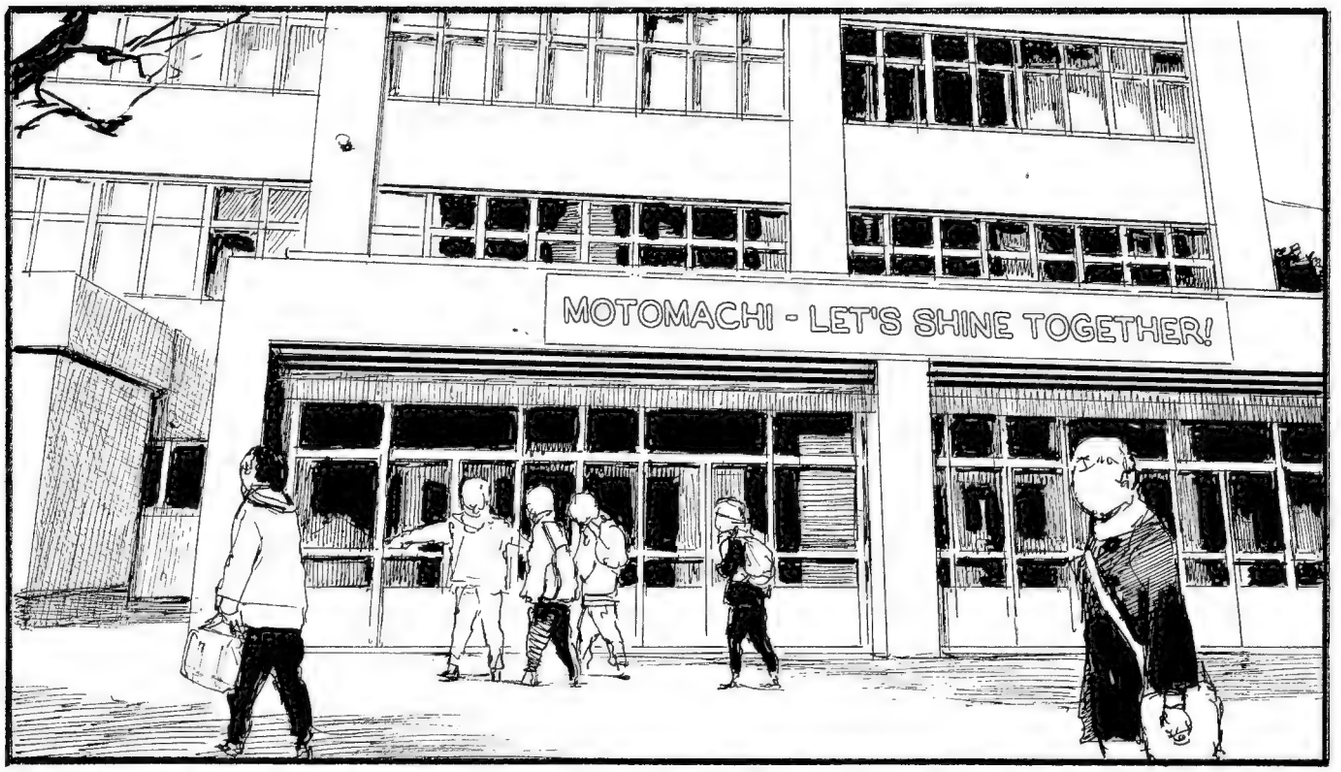


*A FAMOUS JAPANESE MALE HOST AND PUBLICIST.

JUNICHI-KUN.
SEE TACHIBANA-SAN OVER THERE?
HUH? OH...
YEAH?
HOW THEIR LIVES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS...
WHEN I LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT AFTER ALL.
WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL HAVE TO MOVE...
BUT UNTIL JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO, SHE WAS LITERALLY A PRISONER IN HER OWN HOME.
THESE DAYS, SHE'S A POPULAR WAITRESS AT OUR RESTAURANT.
REALLY?
NO WAY!

BETWEEN YOU AND ME, THE DUDE'S SUPER SKETCHY.
WHAT?! S-SERI-OUSLY?
WORD IS BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL HE ALMOST MURDERED A CLASSMATE IN COLD BLOOD.
APPARENTLY, HE'S A SUIT AT SOME COMPANY, BUT I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT KINDA STUFF HE TALKS ABOUT WITH HIS COWORKERS.
THE GUY WHO SHOWED UP EARLIER IS HER OLDER BROTHER, RIGHT?
UH-HUH?
AS THEY SAY, LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.
MM-HM.
YOU WOULDN'T, RIGHT?
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED.
MOST PEOPLE HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET. THEY'RE JUST A LITTLE BETTER AT HIDING IT THAN YOU.
YOU ONLY PUT MORE PRESSURE ON YOUR-SELF.
BY CONVINCING YOURSELF THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE HAVE THEIR ACT TOGETHER AND KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS,

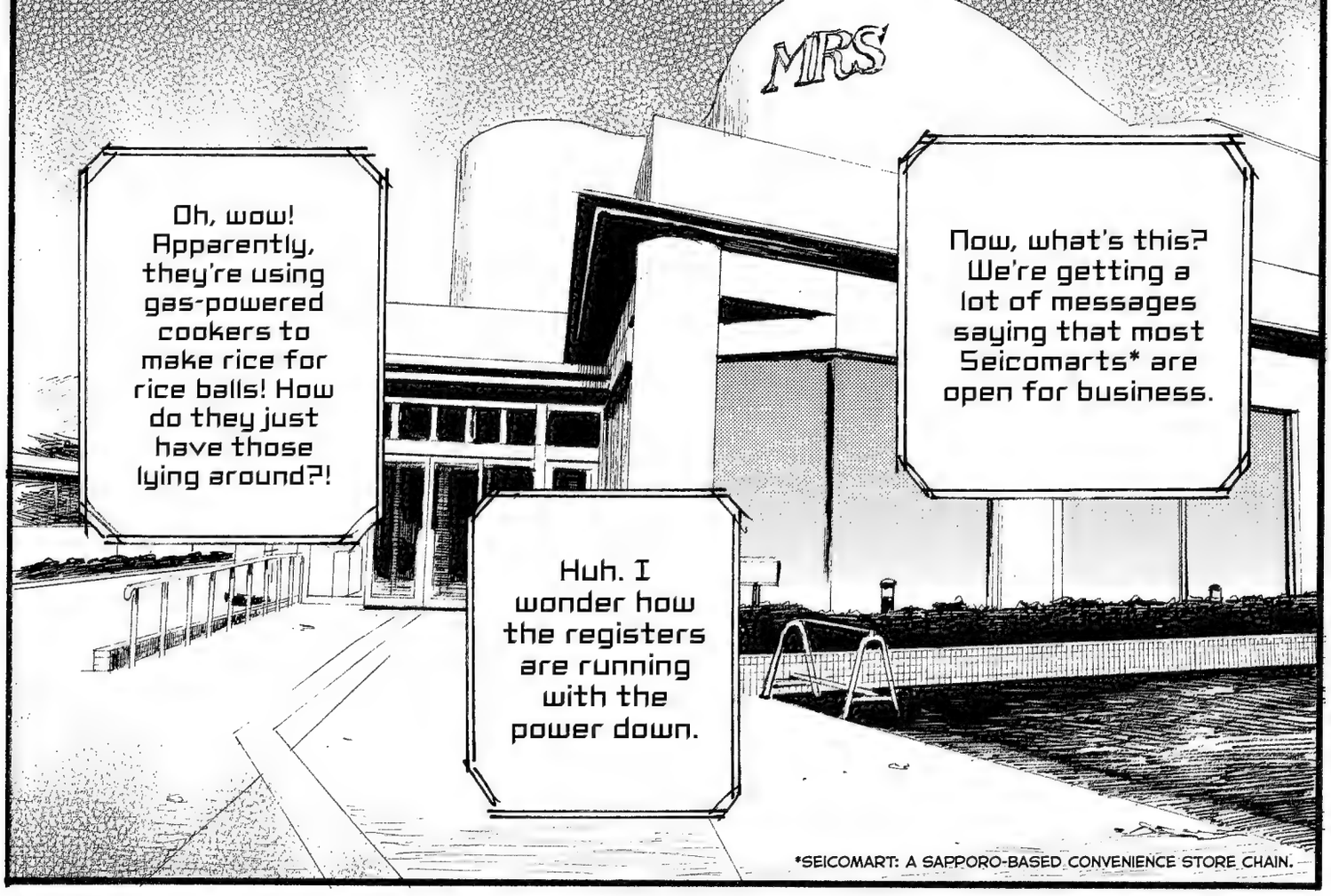
I BET THAT OLD LADY YOU TALKED TO...
...NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT YOU WERE AN ANXIOUS SHUT-IN, EITHER.


MOTOMACHI - LET'S SHINE TOGETHER!

HERE ARE SOME SLEEPING BAGS, FIVE PER BOX.
AND THIS ONE'S FULL OF FEMININE PRODUCTS.
GREAT. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

YESSIR!
THANKS! CAN YOU RUN THESE OVER NEXT, PLEASE?
HAA...
HEEF...
ERIKO-SAN, IT'S GREAT TO BE DRIVEN AND ALL, BUT YOU MIGHT WANNA THINK THINGS THROUGH A LITTLE MORE.
NOT THAT I'M ONE TO TALK...
SORRY ABOUT THIS, KODA-SAN...
I DIDN'T THINK WE'D BE RUNNING AROUND THIS MUCH.
WHAAA?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH ME?!
I JUST HEARD THAT THE SHELTER STAFF ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP OUT.
KODA-SAN!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE HARD WORK, GIRLS.
YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP.
OH! MS. PRINCI-PAL.
OH, I'M SURE YOU DO...
I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND DOING NOTHING DURING A CRISIS LIKE THIS! I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO DO MY PART!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M GONNA NEED CRUTCHES FOR A FEW DAYS AFTER ALL THIS...
PRINCIPAL, PLEASE! YOU'RE KILLIN' ME!
REAL TALK, I PROBABLY WOULD'VE DONE THE EXACT SAME THING IN YOUR SHOES, BUT STILL!
SO, THEY'VE BEEN SITTING IN A SPARE ROOM ON THE FOURTH FLOOR THIS WHOLE TIME. TALK ABOUT UNLUCKY.
I MEAN, WHAT ARE THE ODDS A DISASTER THIS SCALE WOULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN, RIGHT?
THE TRUTH IS, THE CITY ADVISED US TO KEEP THE SUPPLIES SOMEWHERE READILY ACCESSIBLE, BUT LET'S BE HONEST, REALLY.


MRS
Oh, wow! Apparently, they're using gas-powered cookers to make rice for rice balls! How do they just have those lying around?!
Huh. I wonder how the registers are running with the power down.
Now, what's this? We're getting a lot of messages saying that most Seicomarts* are open for business.
*SEICOMART: A SAPPORO-BASED CONVENIENCE STORE CHAIN.

TSUKADA! GET ME AN UPDATE ON THE SOUP KITCHEN AND WATER SITUATION.
ON IT.
TRRRR TRRRR
SURE THING!
INAGAKI! TAKE SOME MORE FUEL UP TO THE ROOF, WILL YA?
ALSO, A FEW FOLKS ARE LOOKIN' TO RUN TO THE STORE FOR BABY SUPPLIES. CAN YOU GIVE 'EM A RIDE AFTERWARD?

YO, KURE-KO!
HOW'RE THINGS ON YOUR END?
I'LL WRITE THE ANNOUNCE-MENT, YOU UPDATE THE SITE AND OUR TWITTER!

IT WAS ROUGH. MY WATER'S OUT, AND I WAS DAMN NEAR BURIED UNDER AN AVALANCHE OF BOOKS.
I'M HOLED UP AT THE LOCAL KARAOKE JOINT RIGHT NOW.
...NAH, THEY'RE NOT OPEN, JUST LETTING PEOPLE TAKE SHELTER.
CAN'T SMOKE, AND THE BOOTH'S TOO CRAMPED TO STRETCH MY LEGS OUT, BUT HEY, BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.
ANY-WAY,
FORGET ABOUT ME.
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THE RADIO TO STAY UP TO DATE, BUT...
YOU EVER TUNE IN TO THE FM STATION RADIO KUSHIRO BEFORE, MATO?
THERE'S A SHOW ON RIGHT NOW YOU MIGHT WANNA CATCH.
RADIO KUSHIRO... COMMUNITY CHANNEL, MAYBE?
?
I think you'll find the content *very interesting*. Later.

We just checked in, and it looks like Osako-san unfortunately still can't make it in yet.

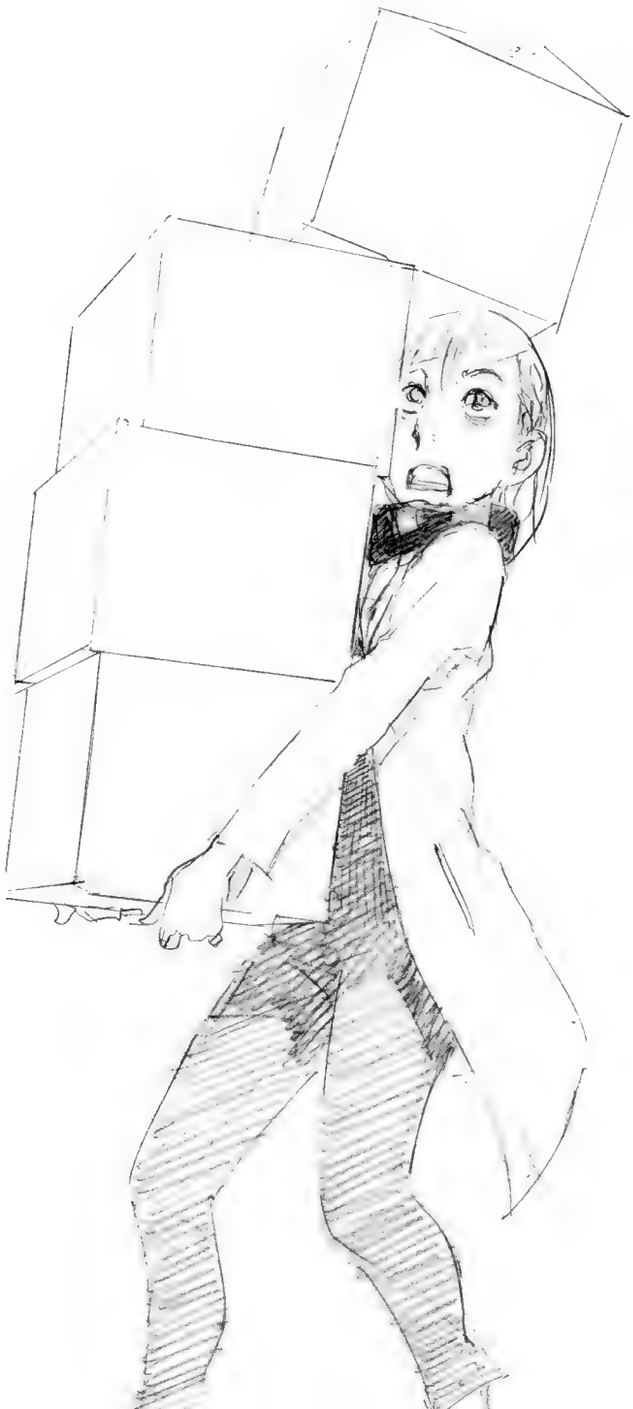
In the meantime, I'll be keeping you up to date on the earthquake between letters from the listeners.

THAT VOICE...

But first, allow me to reintroduce myself.

You're listening to Sissel Komei.

I only deejayed for Radio Kushiro briefly back when it first started, but when I heard the station was in dire straits, I ran here as fast as I could!



wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

Chapter 08 「I CAN'T PICK A TIME OR PLACE.」

I only deejayed for Radio Kushiro briefly back when it first started, but when I heard the station was in dire straits, I ran here as fast as I could!

88% 11:32

Due to technical limitations, some delay may occur...

LISTEN

RADIO KUSHIRO

11.24 (TUES) 10:00-12:00
HAPPY DREAM KUSHIRO

TOP GUIDE SNS

HOME APPS FAVORITES SETTING

But first, allow me to reintroduce myself.

You're listening to Sissel Komei.

Like I said before, it looks like this outage is going to be a long one, so to anyone with all-electric utilities, please evacuate to the nearest shelter.

Due to technical limitations, some delay may occur...

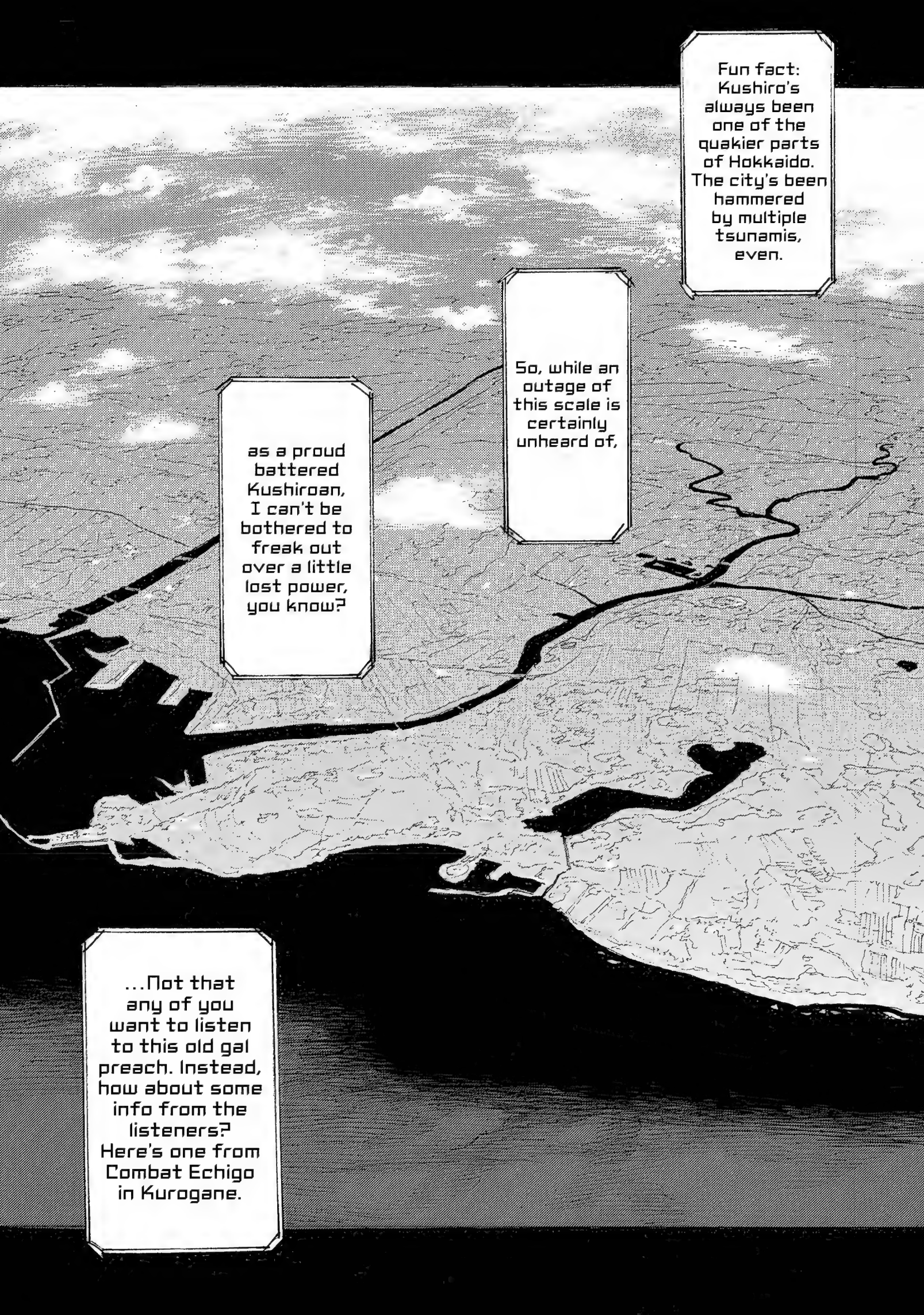
LISTEN

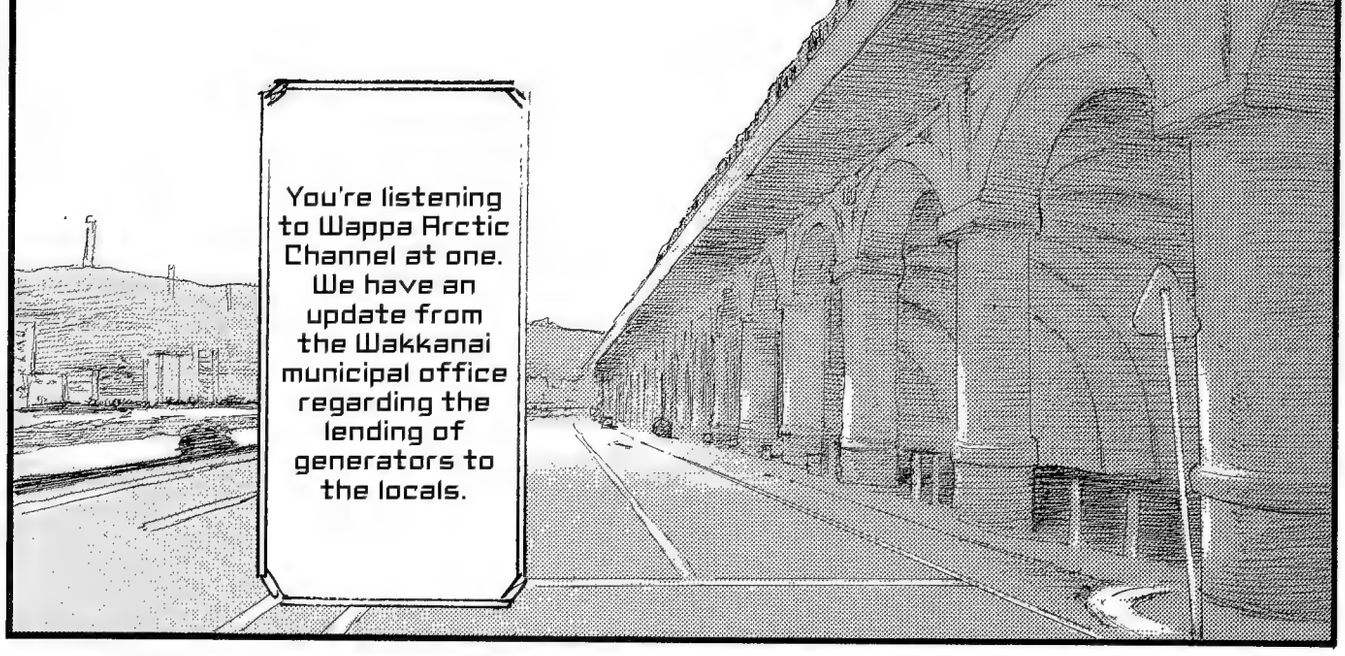
RADIO KUSHIRO

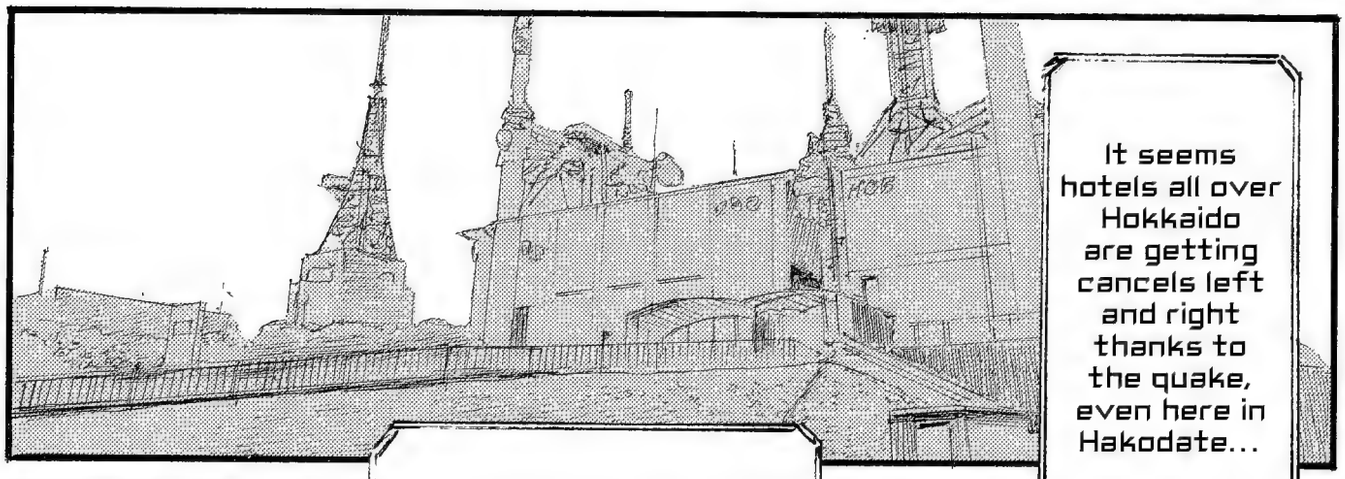
Welp, so much for the grid coming back up. I'm just glad my house has gas heating.

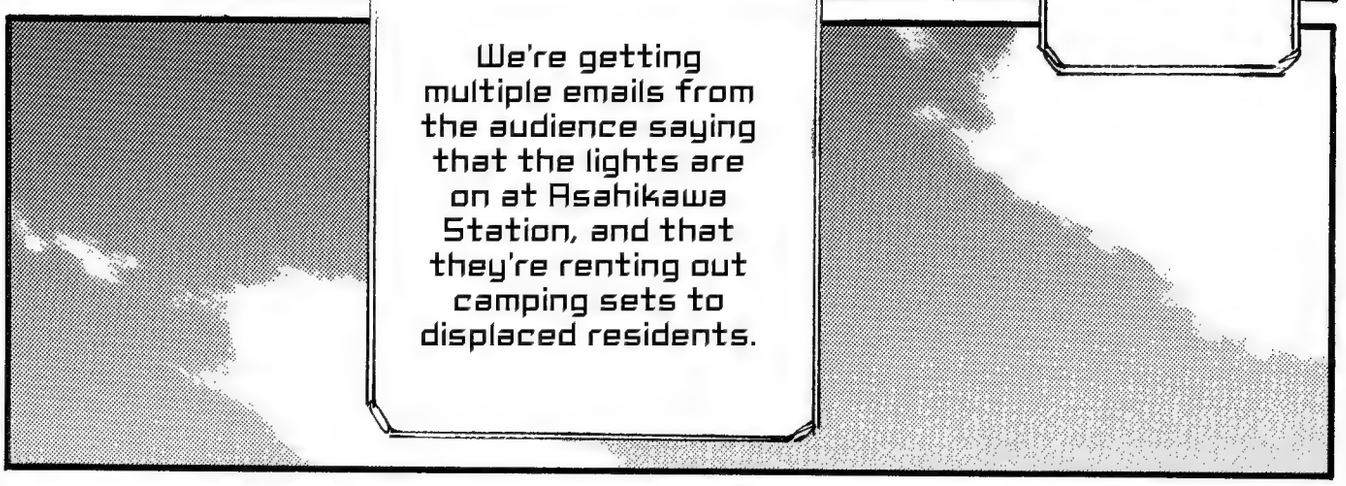
I'D KNOW THAT VOICE ANY-WHERE.

COULD IT REALLY BE?


Fun fact: Kushiro's always been one of the quakier parts of Hokkaido. The city's been hammered by multiple tsunamis, even.
So, while an outage of this scale is certainly unheard of,
as a proud battered Kushiroan, I can't be bothered to freak out over a little lost power, you know?
...Not that any of you want to listen to this old gal preach. Instead, how about some info from the listeners? Here's one from Combat Echigo in Kurogane.


You're listening to Wappa Arctic Channel at one. We have an update from the Wakkanai municipal office regarding the lending of generators to the locals.

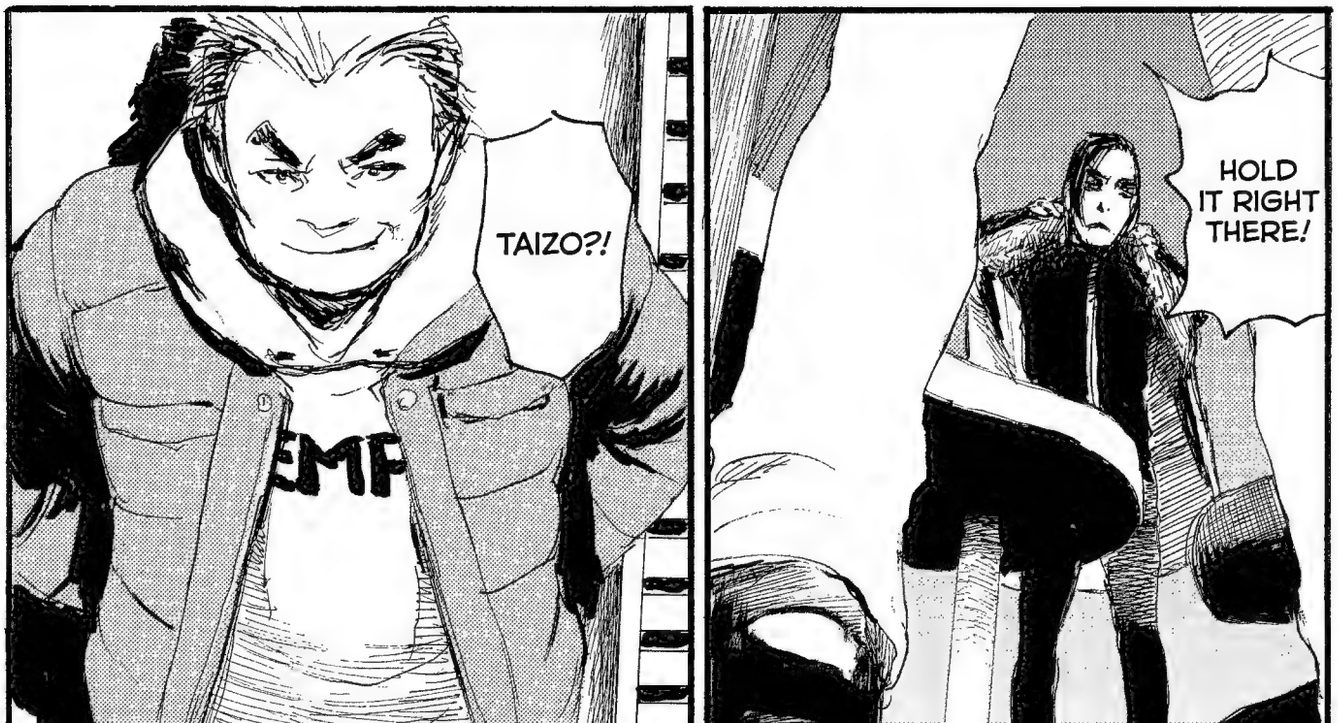

It seems hotels all over Hokkaido are getting cancels left and right thanks to the quake, even here in Hakodate...


We're getting multiple emails from the audience saying that the lights are on at Asahikawa Station, and that they're renting out camping sets to displaced residents.

Fujitoya, Fushiko 11-Jo, Higashi-ku. Charcoal BBQ Hanzomon, 39-Jonishi, Minami-ku.
Sosaku Shunsai NEXT, Chuo-dori, Toyohira-ku. Seafood Pub ARIGATOU, Kotoni 1-Jo, Nishi-ku.

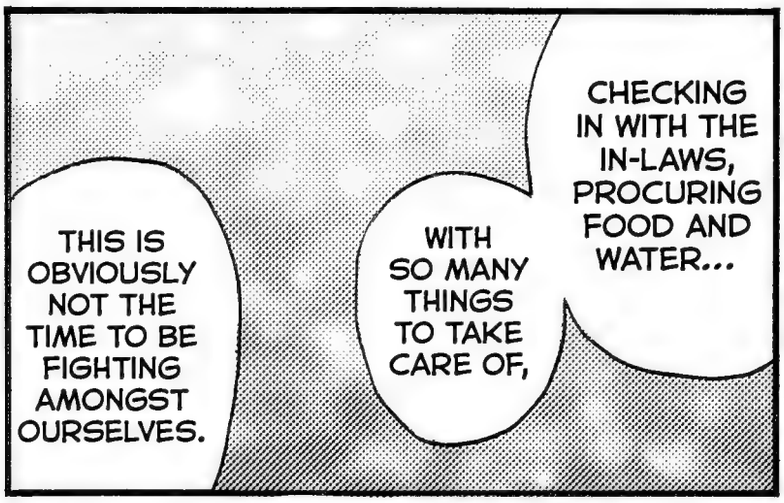
JIRO-SAN.
!
LOOKS LIKE DUCKY SERIZAWA-SAN FINALLY MADE IT IN.
THAT DOES IT FOR OUR SOUP KITCHEN UPDATE!
PLEASE CHECK THE STATION'S HOMEPAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

ANYWAY, NICE WORK. I REALLY OWE YOU ONE.
HA HA. FEEL FREE TO CAMP OUT HERE IF YOU NEED TO.
GREAT... GUESS I'LL LEAVE THE HELM TO HIM AND HEAD HOME FOR NOW.
DOUBT I'LL GET MUCH SLEEP IN MY FREEZING ELECTRIC APARTMENT, THOUGH.

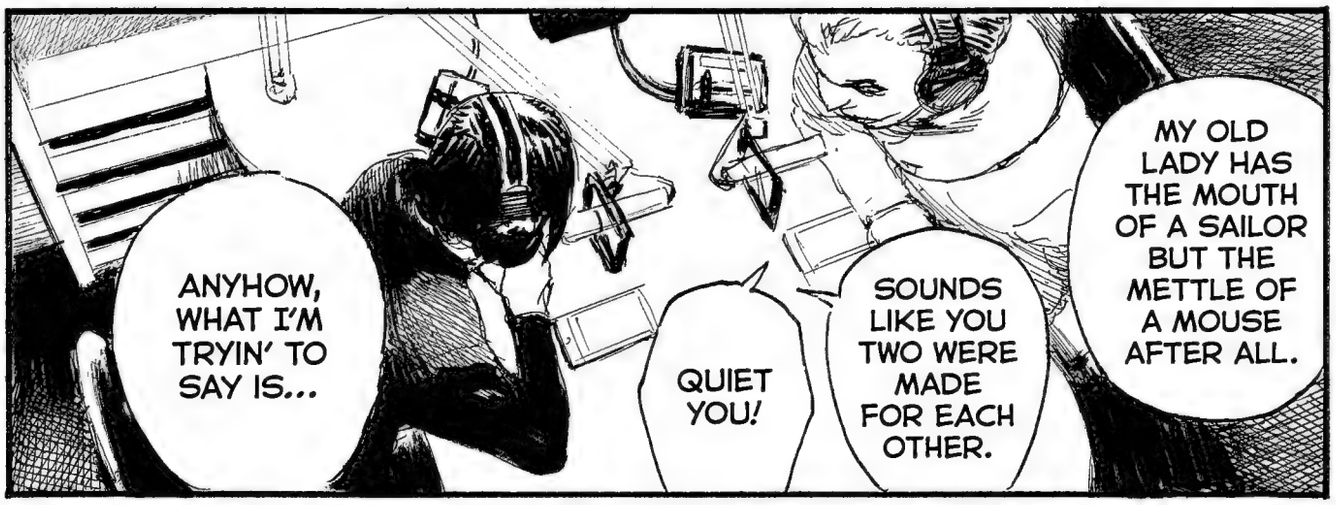

TAIZO?!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

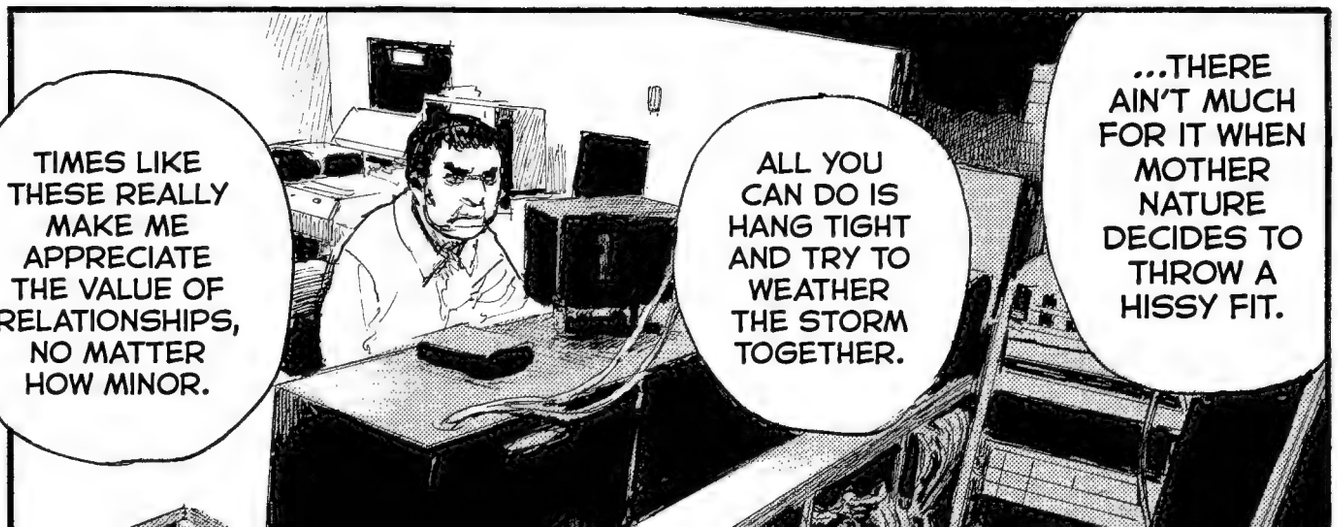
I WAS LISTENING TO YOUR SOLO SHOW AND KNEW I JUST HAD TO COME IN!
BY OUR POWERS COMBINED, GO GO BADGER TAIJI!
IF YOU WERE LISTENING, THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M ABOUT READY TO PASS THE FUCK OUT, MAN.
I HAVEN'T EVEN CHECKED ON MY PLACE YET...
AND BY THE WAY, I CAN TELL BY YOUR GLOWING COMPLEXION THAT YOU GOT PLENTY OF SLEEP AND IT'S KINDA PISSING ME OFF.
I'M GOOD IF YOU ARE, JIRO-SAN!
NOT REALLY, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE,
FINE, FUCK IT. I'LL STAY...
JUST STICK AROUND FOR ANOTHER FIFTEEN!
I PROMISE I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE!
HAVE A SEAT!
WHY'S HE SO HYPER?
YOU'RE TUNING IN TO A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE BADGER NO-HUNTING HOUR!
HM? WHAT'S THAT? YOU THOUGHT THE SHOW WAS OVER? WELL, THINK AGAIN!
THAT'S RIGHT. SEEMS MY PARTNER HERE HAS SOMETHING HE JUST HAS TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE. I HOPE YOU'LL ALL HUMOR HIM FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
HELLO, HELLO! MINISTER OF GOUT, BADGER TAIZO HERE!

BEG PARDON FOR STEALING THE SPOTLIGHT DURING THESE TRYING TIMES, BUT PLEASE HEAR ME OUT.
ME AND THE MISSUS HAD OURSELVES A LITTLE LOVERS SPAT THE OTHER DAY, SEE.
TRUTH IS, WE WEREN'T EVEN ON SPEAKING TERMS.


CHECKING IN WITH THE IN-LAWS, PROCURING FOOD AND WATER...
WITH SO MANY THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF,
THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE TIME TO BE FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES.

UNTIL TODAY'S QUAKE SHOOK THINGS UP, THAT IS!


MY OLD LADY HAS THE MOUTH OF A SAILOR BUT THE METTLE OF A MOUSE AFTER ALL.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.
QUIET YOU!
ANYHOW, WHAT I'M TRYIN' TO SAY IS...

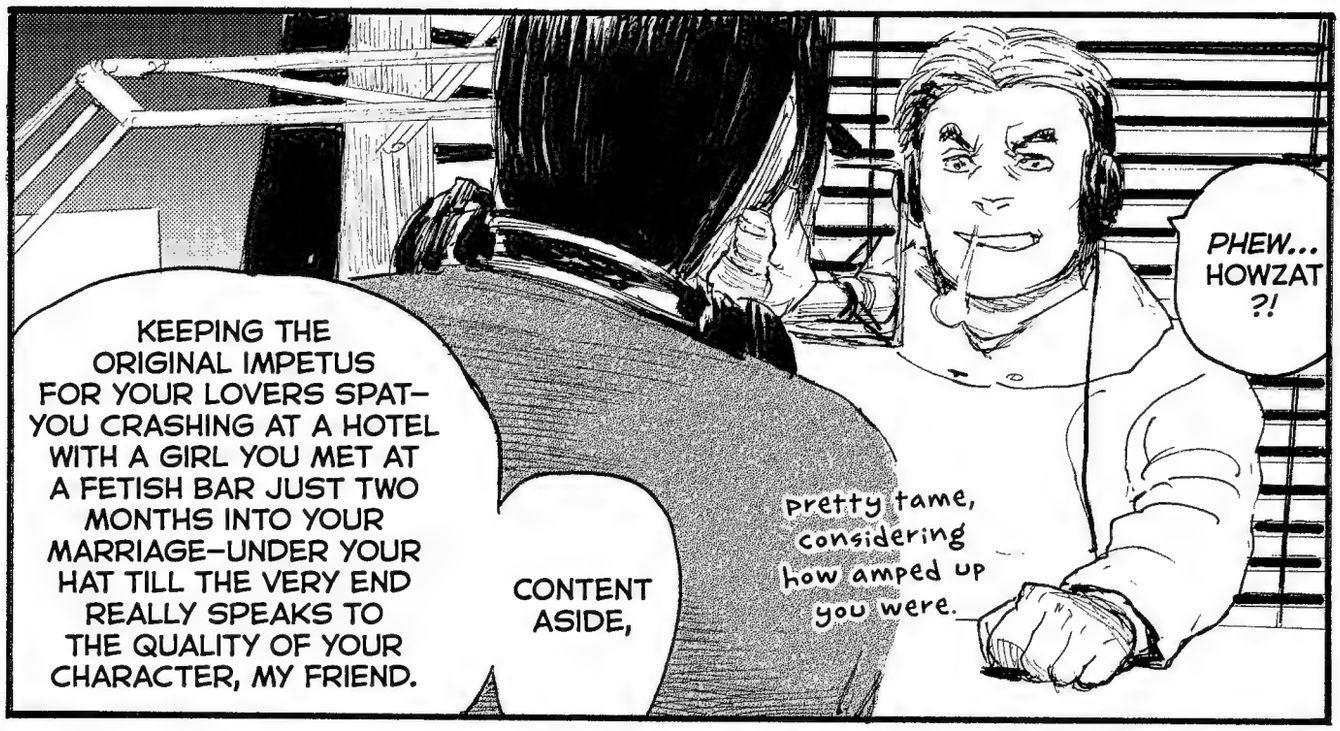

...THERE AIN'T MUCH FOR IT WHEN MOTHER NATURE DECIDES TO THROW A HISSY FIT.
ALL YOU CAN DO IS HANG TIGHT AND TRY TO WEATHER THE STORM TOGETHER.
TIMES LIKE THESE REALLY MAKE ME APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF RELATIONSHIPS, NO MATTER HOW MINOR.

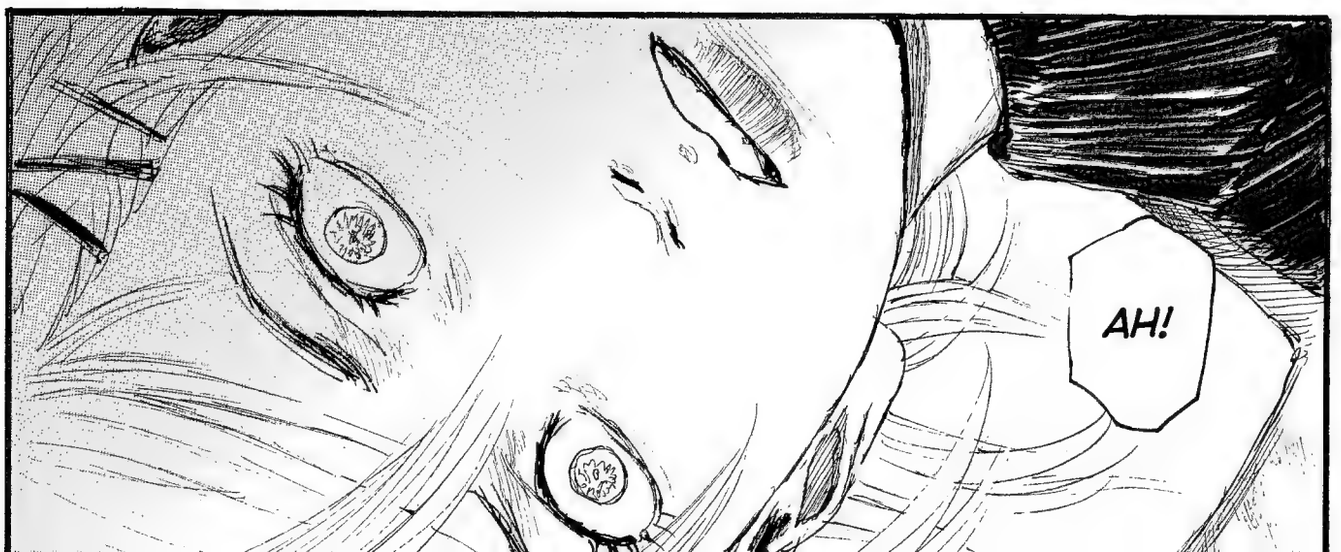
FAMILY MEMBERS YOU RARELY SPEAK TO, FRIENDS YOU HAVEN'T CONTACTED IN YEARS,
FORMER CHUMS YOU HAD A FALLING OUT WITH.
WHEN SHIT HITS THE FAN, REACHING OUT TO THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT SHOULD BE PRIORITY NUMBER ONE.

I GUARANTEE YOU THEY WON'T SNUB YOU FOR HAVING THE DECENCY TO SEE HOW THEY'RE HOLDING UP.
THIS WHOLE THING'S GOT EVERYONE SHOOK.
NOT ONLY DID ME AND MRS. BADGER MAKE UP, BUT THE OLD MAN NEXT DOOR I BUMPED HEADS WITH A WHILE BACK OVER TRASH DAY PROCEDURE EVEN SWUNG BY TO BORROW SOME BATTERIES.

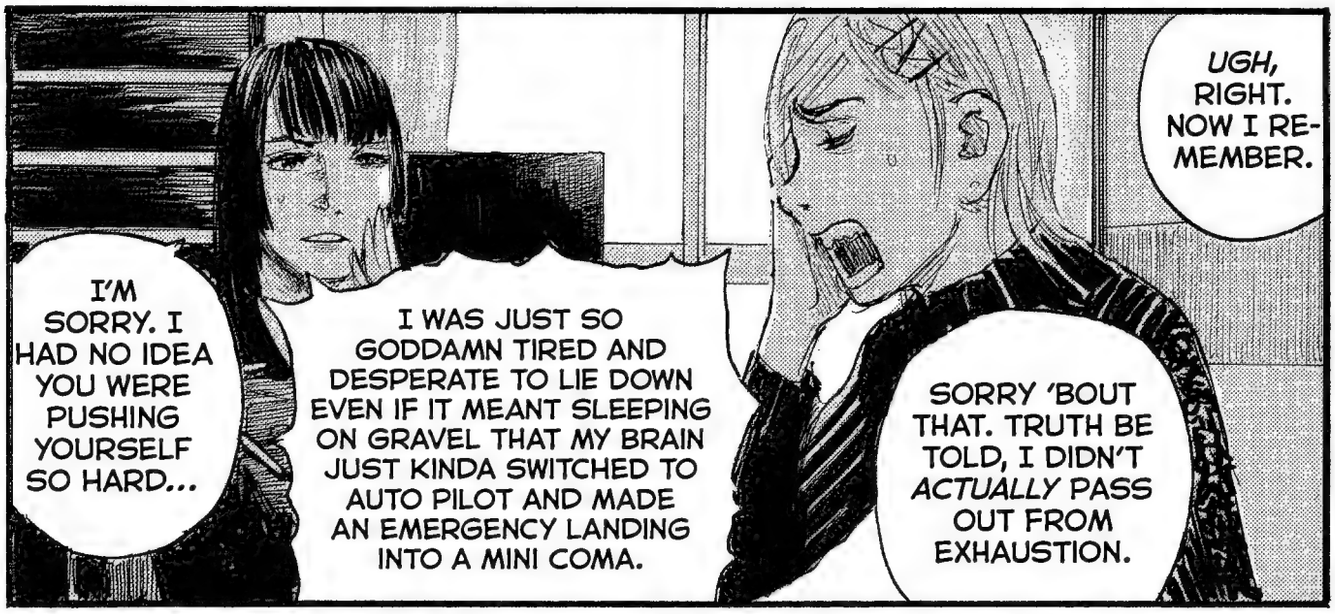
THE QUAKE AND BLACKOUT MIGHT BE A MAJOR PAIN IN THE REAR, BUT AT LEAST IT HELPED ME PATCH THINGS UP WITH MY WIFE AND NEIGHBOR.
MORAL OF THE STORY: KEEP YOUR HEAD UP, BE KIND TO OTHERS, AND WE'LL ALL MAKE IT THROUGH TO TOMORROW.

THAK
ALRIGHTY, THEN. HAPPY HUNTING!
KEEP SENDING THOSE UPDATES TO OUR OFFICIAL CHANNEL! EVERY BIT OF INFO HELPS!
SO THAT DOES IT FOR THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF THE *BADGER NO-HUNTING HOUR.* FOR REAL THIS TIME.
AND ON THAT NOTE, IT LOOKS LIKE DUCKY SERIZAWA'S ENTERED THE STATION,

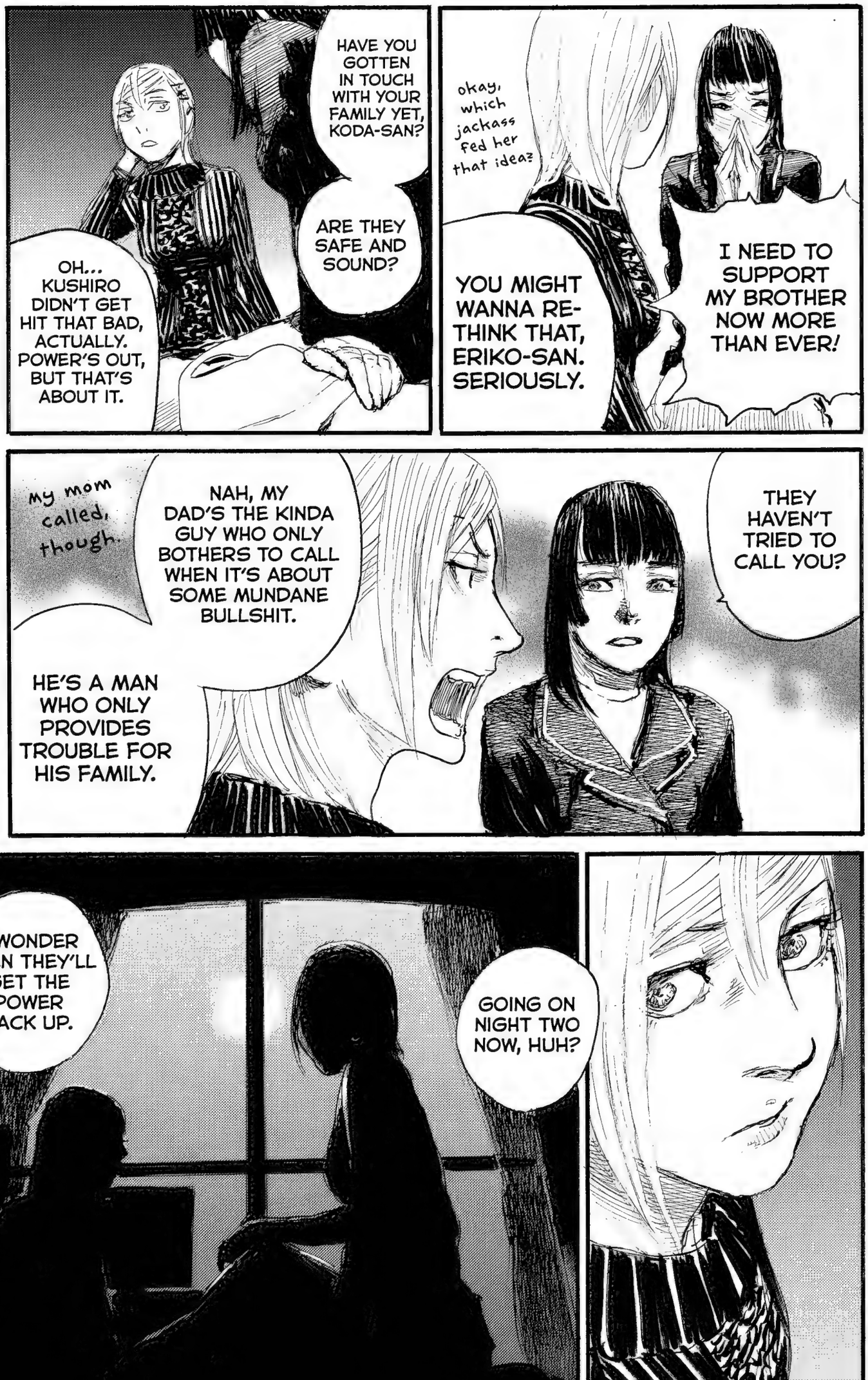

KEEPING THE ORIGINAL IMPETUS FOR YOUR LOVERS SPAT– YOU CRASHING AT A HOTEL WITH A GIRL YOU MET AT A FETISH BAR JUST TWO MONTHS INTO YOUR MARRIAGE–UNDER YOUR HAT TILL THE VERY END REALLY SPEAKS TO THE QUALITY OF YOUR CHARACTER, MY FRIEND.
CONTENT ASIDE,
pretty tame, considering how amped up you were.
PHEW... HOWZAT ?!


AH!

ER... WHERE AM I?
GOOD MORNING. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
YOU SUDDENLY COLLAPSED WHILE WE WERE DELIVERING SUPPLIES.
THE PRINCIPAL LET US USE THE NIGHT DUTY ROOM. YOU NEARLY GAVE HER HEART ATTACK.


UGH, RIGHT. NOW I REMEMBER.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. TRUTH BE TOLD, I DIDN'T ACTUALLY PASS OUT FROM EXHAUSTION.
I WAS JUST SO GODDAMN TIRED AND DESPERATE TO LIE DOWN EVEN IF IT MEANT SLEEPING ON GRAVEL THAT MY BRAIN JUST KINDA SWITCHED TO AUTO PILOT AND MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING INTO A MINI COMA.
I'M SORRY. I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE PUSHING YOURSELF SO HARD...

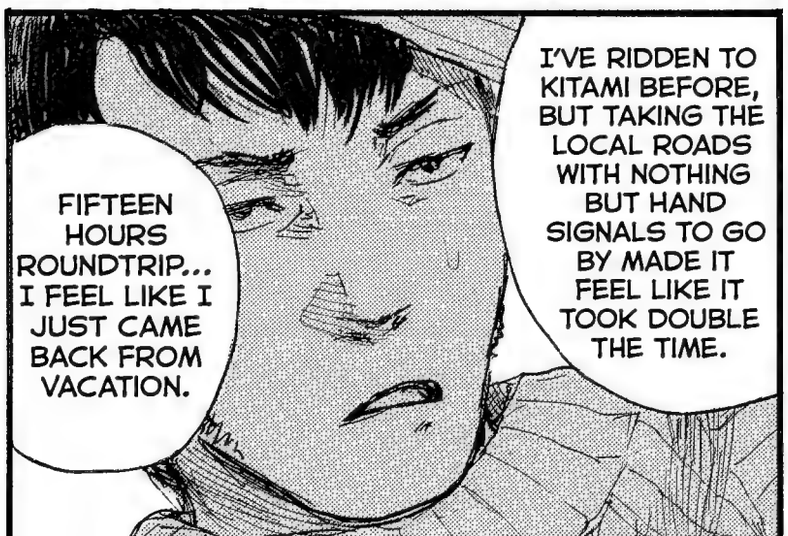
WERE YOU CRYING, ERIKO-SAN?
OH! NO, NO...
FOR A SLACKER LIKE ME?
I WAS JUST LISTENING TO A REALLY MOVING SEGMENT ON HCB RADIO.
IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE THIS DISASTER MIGHT ACTUALLY BE JUST WHAT I NEED TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT WITH MY FAMILY.


HAVE YOU GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FAMILY YET, KODA-SAN?
ARE THEY SAFE AND SOUND?
OH... KUSHIRO DIDN'T GET HIT THAT BAD, ACTUALLY. POWER'S OUT, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.
okay, which jackass fed her that idea?
I NEED TO SUPPORT MY BROTHER NOW MORE THAN EVER!
YOU MIGHT WANNA RE-THINK THAT, ERIKO-SAN. SERIOUSLY.
THEY HAVEN'T TRIED TO CALL YOU?
NAH, MY DAD'S THE KINDA GUY WHO ONLY BOTHERS TO CALL WHEN IT'S ABOUT SOME MUNDANE BULLSHIT.
my mom called, though.
HE'S A MAN WHO ONLY PROVIDES TROUBLE FOR HIS FAMILY.
I WONDER WHEN THEY'LL GET THE POWER BACK UP.
GOING ON NIGHT TWO NOW, HUH?

MIRS

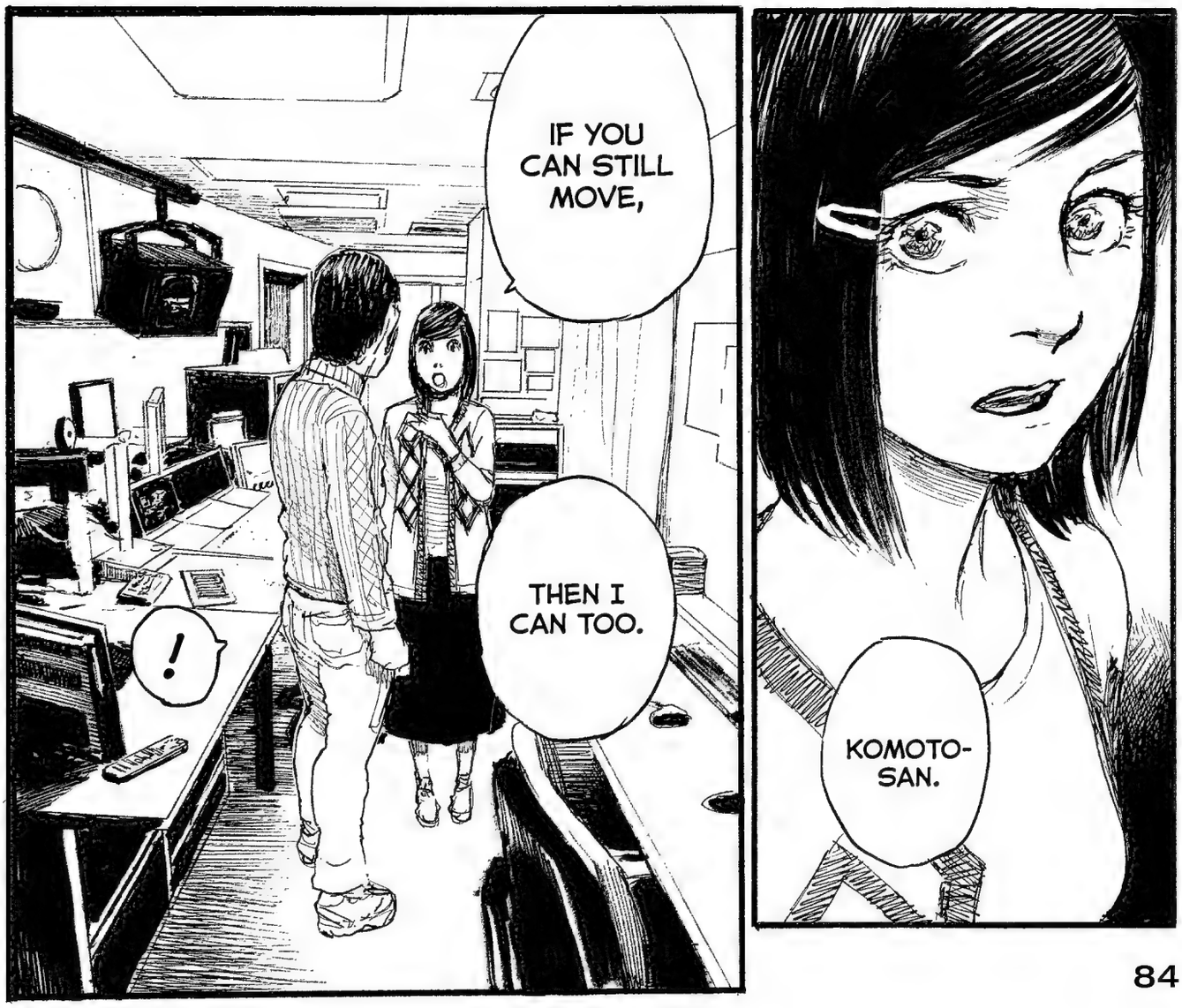
GOOD WORK.
SORRY, KOMOTO. DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME THAT THEY'D HAVE THE EXPRESS-WAY LOCKED DOWN.
WELL, NOT LIKE IT WOULD'VE MATTERED. THOSE GENERATORS NEEDED TO BE DELIVERED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

OOF... THAT WAS ROUGH.


I'VE RIDDEN TO KITAMI BEFORE, BUT TAKING THE LOCAL ROADS WITH NOTHING BUT HAND SIGNALS TO GO BY MADE IT FEEL LIKE IT TOOK DOUBLE THE TIME.
FIFTEEN HOURS ROUNDTRIP... I FEEL LIKE I JUST CAME BACK FROM VACATION.

I HEAR DIRECTOR TAKADA AND MIYAJIMA STILL CAN'T MAKE IT IN.
BY THE WAY, HOW'D THE BROADCAST GO, MATO-SAN?
THANK GOD... I WAS DREADING THE IDEA OF HAVING TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY OUT THERE TOO.
PEOPLE STARTED SHOWING UP RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT FOR KITAMI, SO I HAD SOMEONE ELSE TAKE CARE OF TOYA FOR YOU.
I ONLY MANAGED TO MAKE DO BECAUSE WE DIDN'T PLAY ANY COMMERCIALS OR MUSIC!
DON'T BE SILLY!
WAIT, REALLY?!
ASK NANBA. SHE WAS THE ONE CALLING THE SHOTS TODAY.
'COURSE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN PLAY JUST *ANY-THING.*
AGGRESSIVE AND SAD SONGS ARE OBVIOUSLY A NO-GO.
AND NOTHING WITH A TITLE OR LYRICS THAT MIGHT BRING PEOPLE DOWN EITHER.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT.
I'M THINKIN' IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO START PLAYING MUSIC AGAIN.
THE LISTENERS OUGHTA BE MISSING THEIR TUNES RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

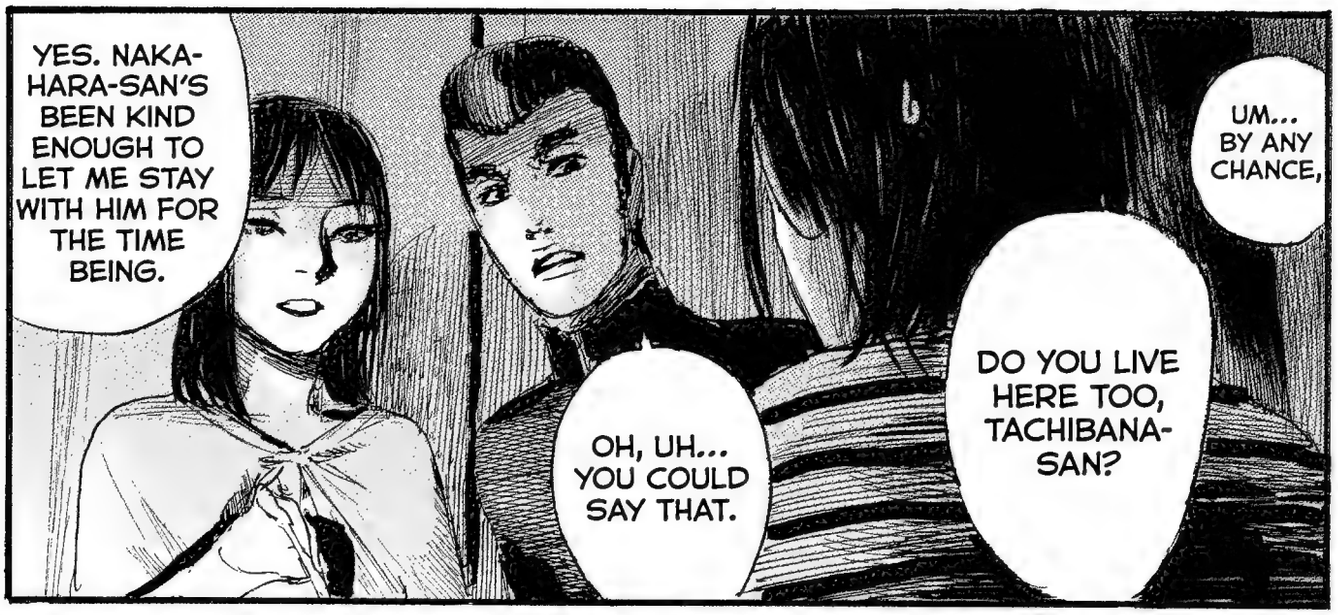
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KOMOTO-SAN? YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM DRIVING FOR FIFTEEN HOURS STRAIGHT.
I'LL BE GOOD AFTER A QUICK BREAK.
YES, I'M FINE. MINARE-SAN SAID SHE LINED THE TURTLE TANK WITH HAND WARMERS AND WRAPPED IT WITH ALUMINUM FOIL.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE TURTLES...
YOU SURE YOU'RE GOOD TO STAY, NANBA?
O-OKAY!
NANBA, YOU KEEP MANNING THE CONSOLE.
LEAVE THE PLAY-LIST TO ME.


!
IF YOU CAN STILL MOVE,
THEN I CAN TOO.
KOMOTO-SAN.

UM...
IT'S AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S JOB TO TEND TO ANY TASK, NO MATTER HOW TOUGH!
I WANT YOU TO DEPEND ON ME MORE AS A JUNIOR.
PLEASE DON'T BE EASY ON ME WHEN WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EMERGENCY.
ME AND THE OTHERS CAN HANDLE THINGS AT THE STATION, BUT THAT WAS *YOUR* PROJECT, RIGHT?
GASP
MY BAD. I WAS JUST THINKING,
ARE YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE THE SHUT-IN ALONE WITH KODA?
BUT I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE...
WELL... I DON'T *THINK* THAT'LL HAPPEN.
I GET THAT YOU'RE HOLDING OUT FOR ONE OF KODA'S TYPICAL CHEMICAL REACTIONS, BUT DON'T FORGET THAT COUNTS EXPLOSIONS TOO. SOMEONE NEEDS TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
S-SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND LIKE SUCH A SMART-ALECK!
YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT...

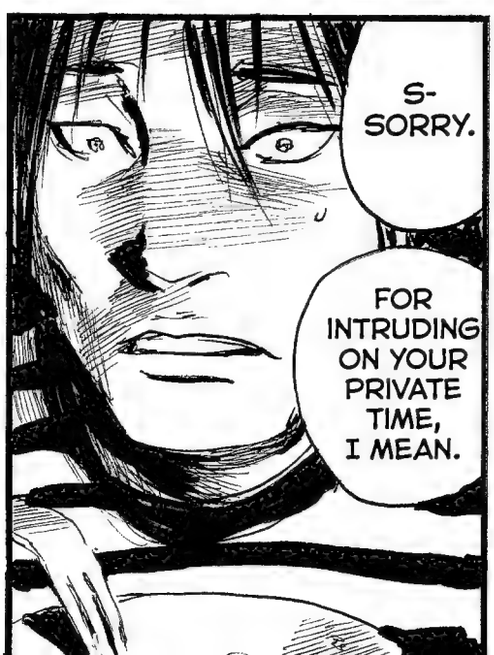
OH, COOL!
WOW, THAT'S BRIGHTER THAN I THOUGHT!
FIRST, PUT A FLASH-LIGHT IN A TALL GLASS.
THEN, PLACE AN EQUAL WIDTH BOTTLED FILLED WITH WATER ON TOP OF THE GLASS, AND... BOOM, LANTERN.
GREAT, THANK YOU.
M'KAY. I'LL MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT WITH THE STORE'S LEFTOVERS.
HOW DOES SAUTÉED CHICKEN, BUTTER RICE, AND SALAD SOUND?
Y-YEAH, THANKS!
LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT MINARE HAD ALSO ALL BUT ABANDONED POOR JUNICHI.

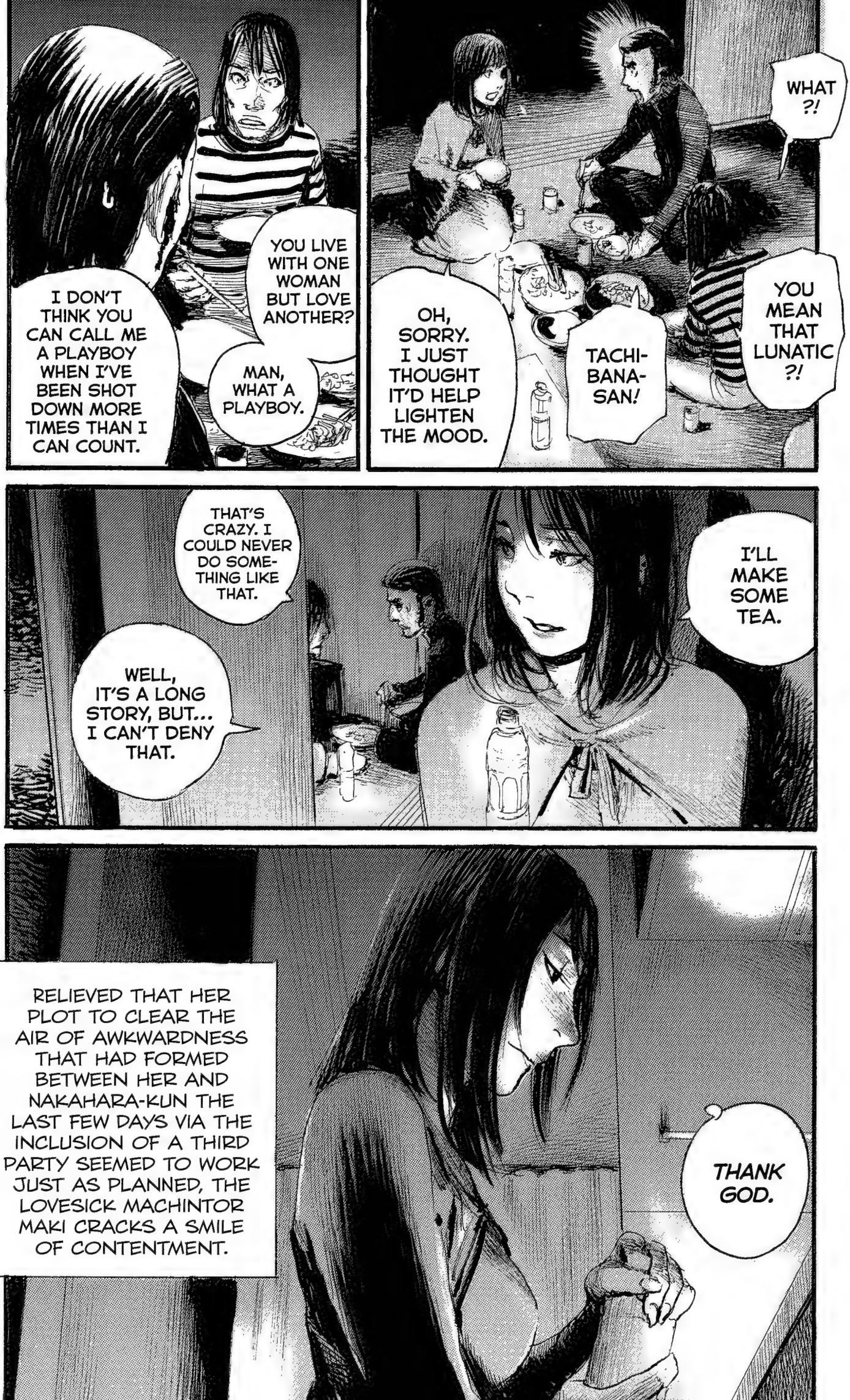
GAS TOO. BUT I HEAR APARTMENTS WITH MORE MODERN ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS BASICALLY LOSE EVERYTHING WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD STILL GET KEROSENE WITHOUT POWER.
AHH. IT'S GREAT TO HEAR MUSIC OVER THE RADIO AGAIN.

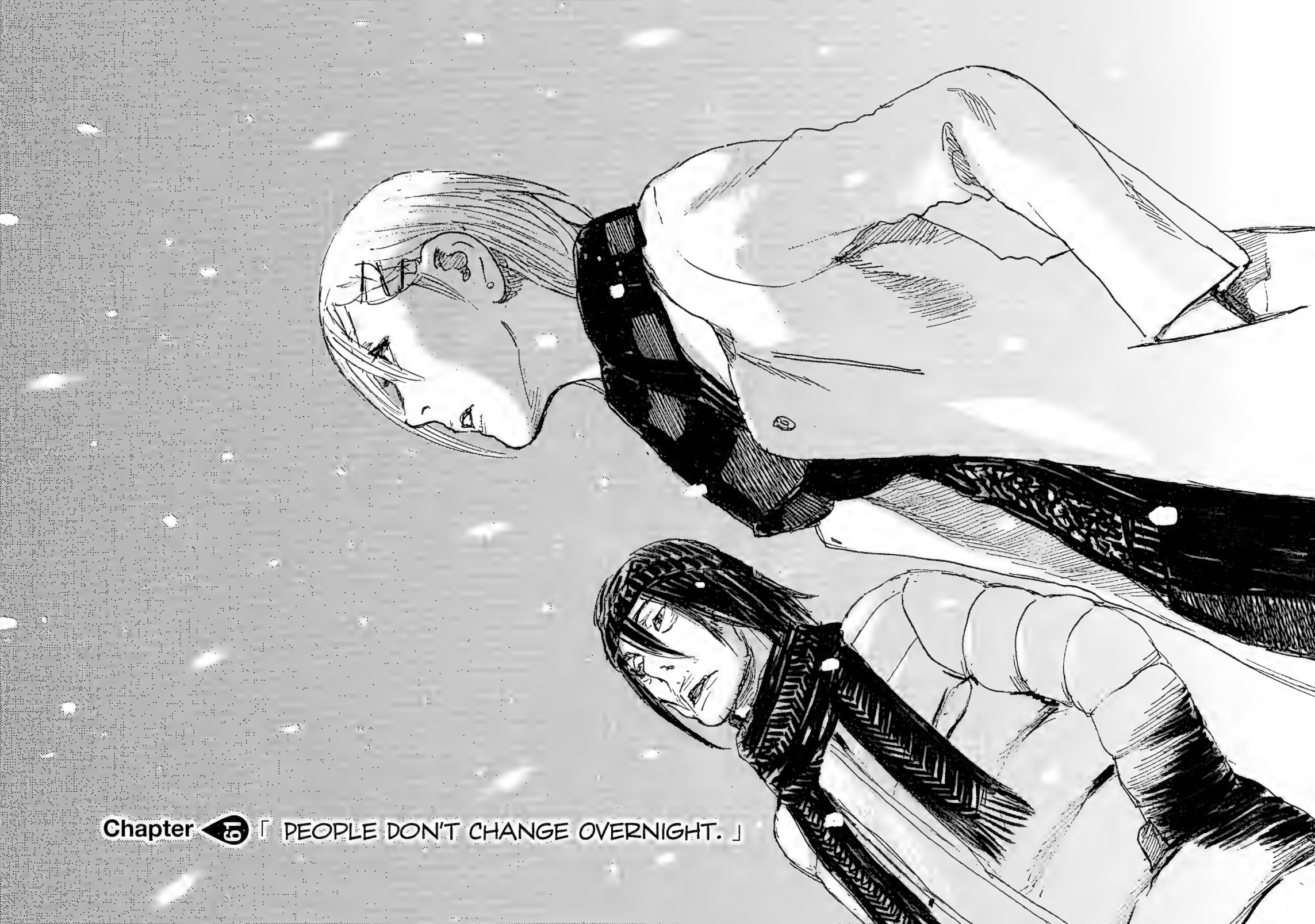

YES. NAKAHARA-SAN'S BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO LET ME STAY WITH HIM FOR THE TIME BEING.
OH, UH... YOU COULD SAY THAT.
DO YOU LIVE HERE TOO, TACHIBANA-SAN?
UM... BY ANY CHANCE,

THAT'S RIGHT. NAKAHARA-SAN IS IN LOVE WITH KODA-SAN, ACTUALLY.

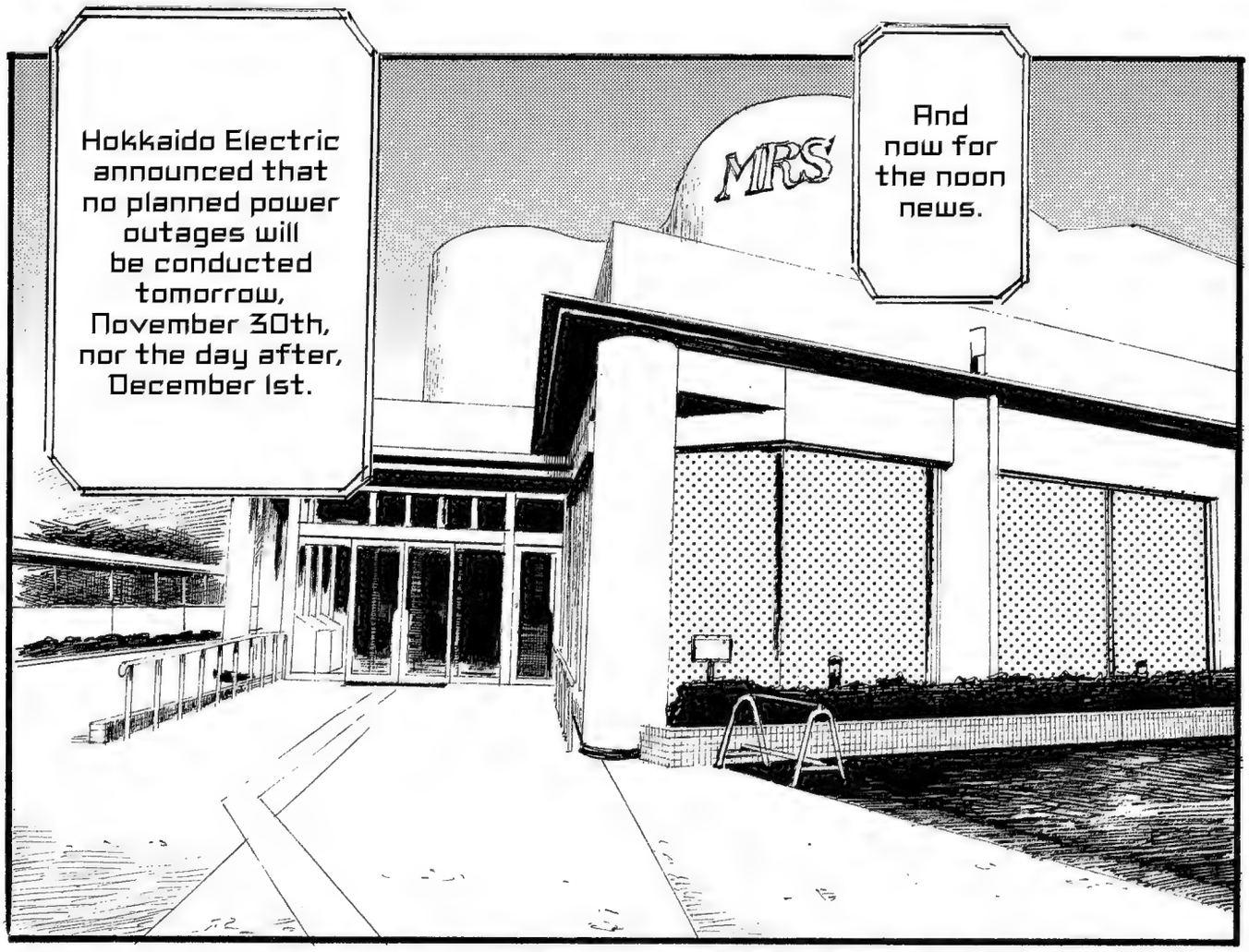
NAH, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...
HUH ?!

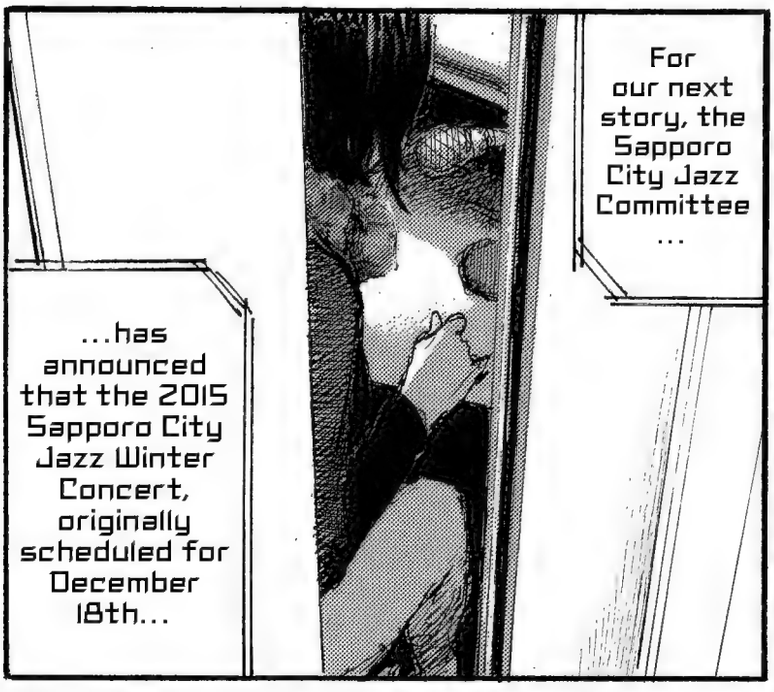

S-SORRY.
FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR PRIVATE TIME, I MEAN.


I DON'T THINK YOU CAN CALL ME A PLAYBOY WHEN I'VE BEEN SHOT DOWN MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.
YOU LIVE WITH ONE WOMAN BUT LOVE ANOTHER?
MAN, WHAT A PLAYBOY.
OH, SORRY. I JUST THOUGHT IT'D HELP LIGHTEN THE MOOD.
TACHI-BANA-SAN!
WHAT ?!
YOU MEAN THAT LUNATIC ?!
WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT... I CAN'T DENY THAT.
THAT'S CRAZY. I COULD NEVER DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
RELIEVED THAT HER PLOT TO CLEAR THE AIR OF AWKWARDNESS THAT HAD FORMED BETWEEN HER AND NAKAHARA-KUN THE LAST FEW DAYS VIA THE INCLUSION OF A THIRD PARTY SEEMED TO WORK JUST AS PLANNED, THE LOVESICK MACHINTOR MAKI CRACKS A SMILE OF CONTENTMENT.
THANK GOD.

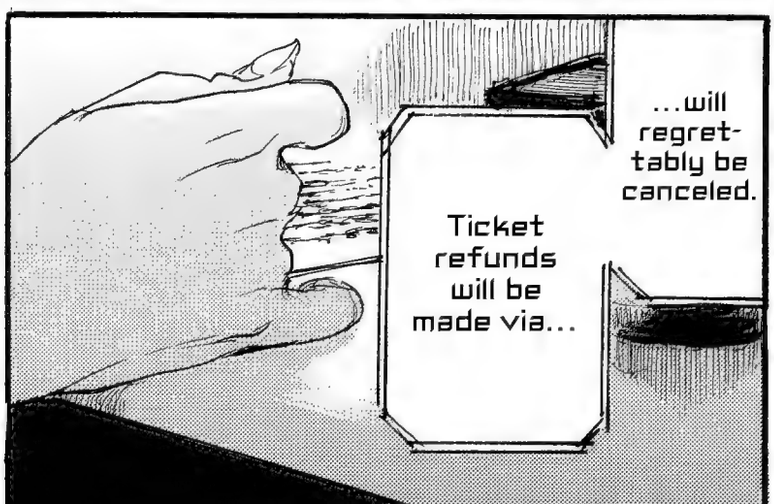


Chapter 61 「 PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE OVERNIGHT. 」


And now for the noon news.
Hokkaido Electric announced that no planned power outages will be conducted tomorrow, November 30th, nor the day after, December 1st.


For our next story, the Sapporo City Jazz Committee ...
...has announced that the 2015 Sapporo City Jazz Winter Concert, originally scheduled for December 18th...

In the meantime, the company has requested that customers keep their power usage to a bare minimum between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the effort of conservation.


...will regrettably be canceled.
Ticket refunds will be made via...

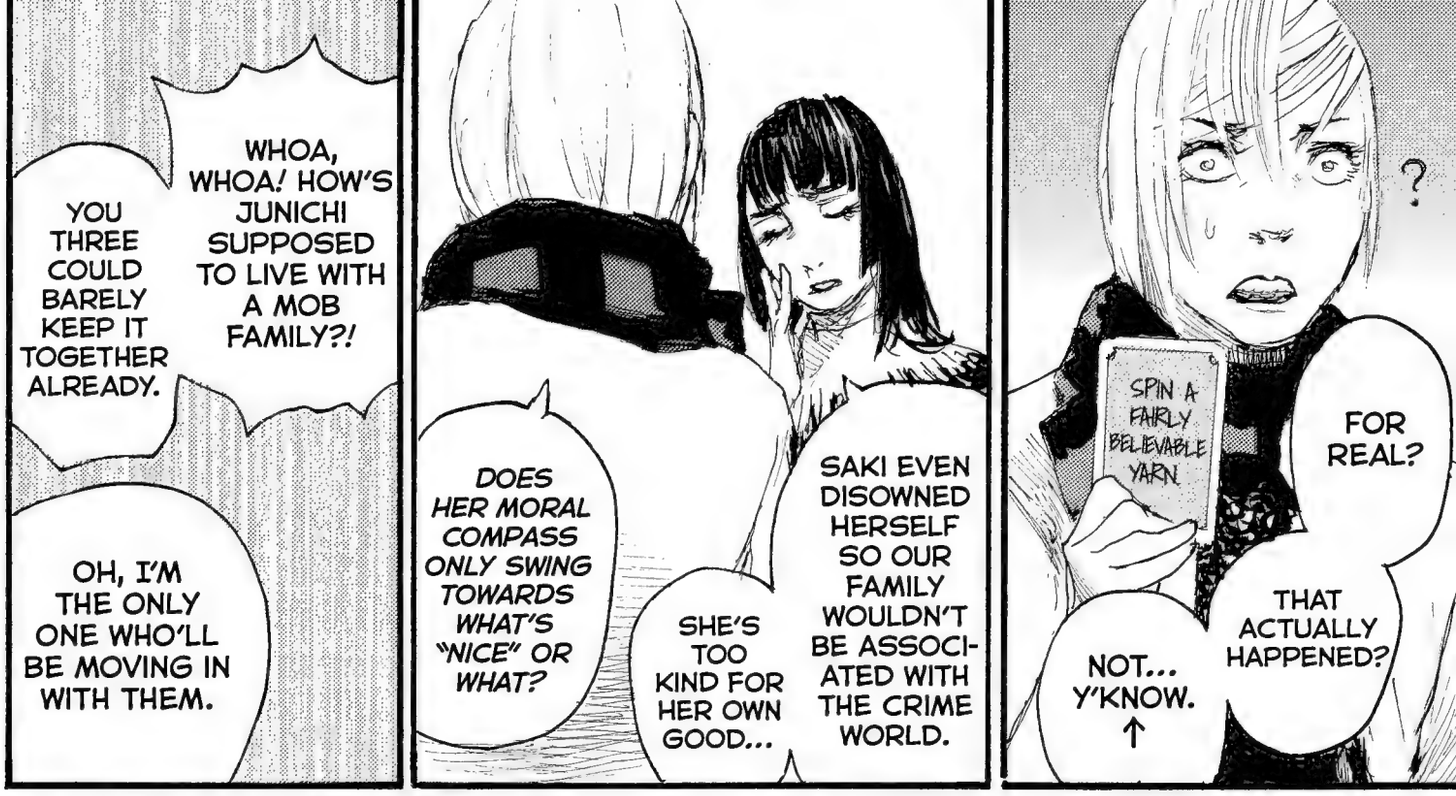
GREETINGS ONE AND ALL. YOU'RE LISTENING TO MRS AT NOON.
IT'S TIME FOR *SEPTEMBER BLUE MOON* WITH YOURS TRULY, MADOKA CHISHIRO.
CHIK
Good news! After five long dark days since the earthquake, light has finally been restored to my humble abode...
WELL, WE'RE FINALLY BACK TO OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE. THANK GOD.
DON'T THANK HIM JUST YET.
WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US.

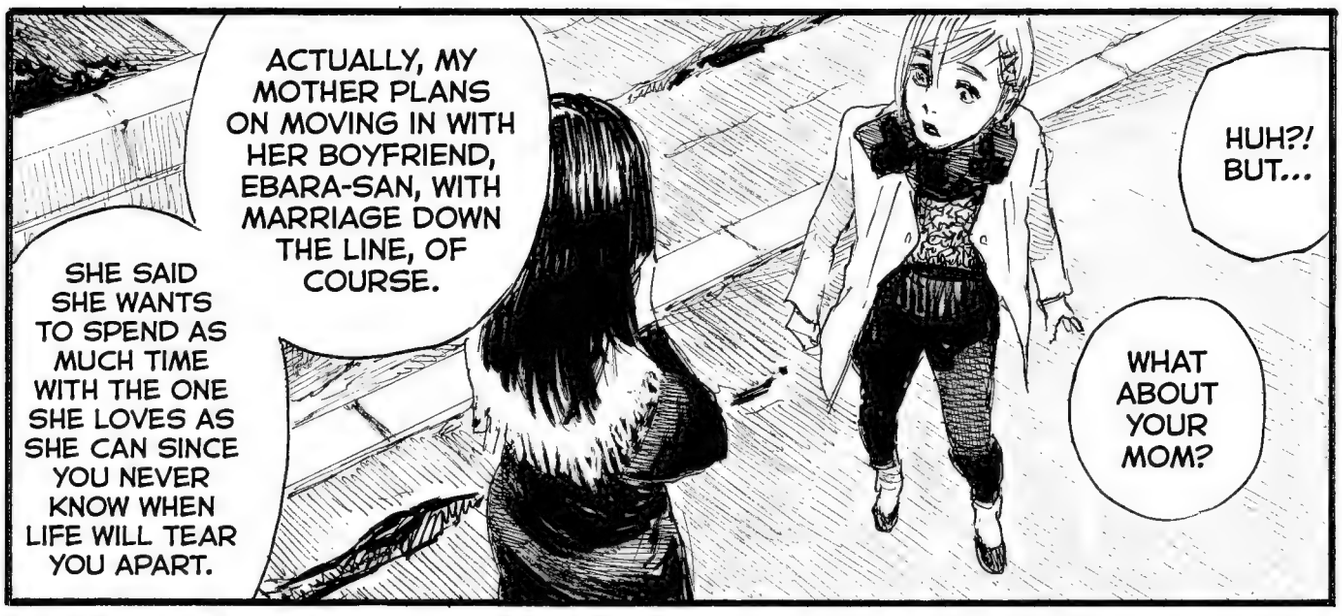
WITH THOSE FOLKS IN MIND, WE CAN'T JUST ACT LIKE THIS EARTHQUAKE FIASCO'S DONE AND DUSTED.
OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING IS IN NO WAY THE SAME AS IT'D BE BEFORE THE QUAKE.
RECON-STRUCTION OF THE LIQUEFIED ROADS AND HOUSING AROUND THE EPICENTER HASN'T EVEN BEGUN YET.
'N THERE'RE STILL AREAS STUCK IN THE DARK.
OVER 30 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE LAND-SLIDE NEAR ATSUMA,
AND RESCUE WORKERS ARE *STILL* SIFTING FOR MISSING PEOPLE.
UNLIKE TV, WHERE PEOPLE GO TO FOR INFO ON A MACRO LEVEL,
GETTIN' THE WORD OUT ABOUT GOINGS-ON LOCALLY IS RADIO'S STRONG SUIT.
IN TERMS OF BROAD-CASTING *USEFUL* INFO, I'D SAY COMMUNITY OUTLETS STOLE THE SHOW THIS TIME.
AS MUCH AS I THINK WE DID OUR DAMNEDEST POST-QUAKE,
LOOKIN' BACK, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THERE WAS MORE WE COULD'VE DONE.

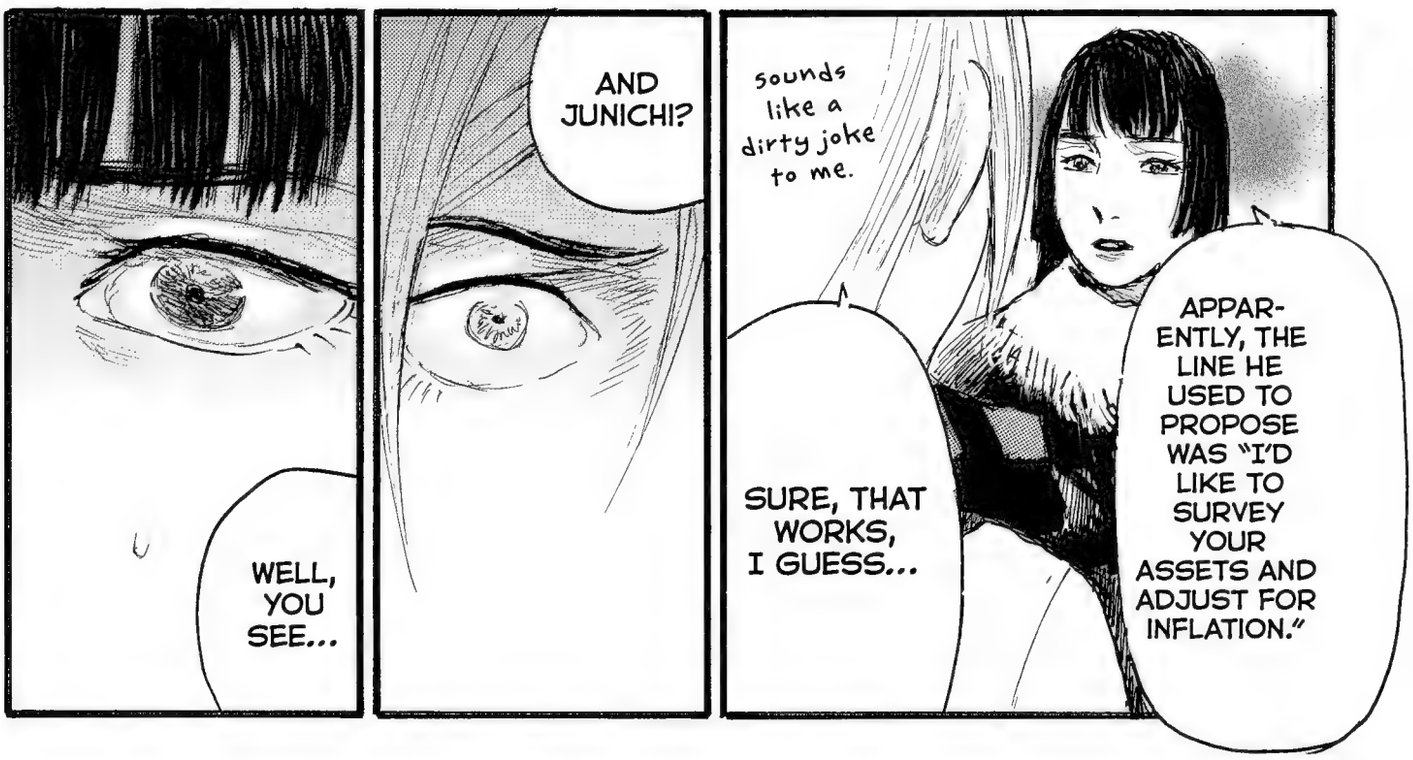
WHO CARES WHO PLAYED THE BIGGEST PART?
AH, DON'T EVEN START, KANE-CHAN.
HELL, Y'MIGHT EVEN SAY BIG BOYS LIKE MRS ARE THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT DURIN' TIMES OF CRISIS LIKE THESE.
...TRUE ENOUGH.
AS LONG AS PEOPLE ARE IN A PLACE TO ENJOY OUR TRIVIAL DRIVEL AGAIN, THAT'S ALL I CAN ASK FOR.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT THINGS GET BACK TO NORMAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
UNFORTUNATELY. THE EARTHQUAKE WARPED MOST OF THE DOORWAYS AND NOW THEY WON'T CLOSE PROPERLY. BUT OF COURSE, THE INSURANCE COMPANY'S BEING STINGY ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE MOVING?
HONESTLY, WE'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF THE WHOLE HOUSE WAS FLATTENED.

YES, ACTUALLY. WE'LL BE STAYING WITH MY STEPFATHER AND SAKI FOR THE TIME BEING.
THAT SUCKS...
ANY IDEA WHERE YOU'LL GO YET?
IT'S TOO BAD. THIS HOUSE MEANS A LOT TO ME.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SELL THE PLOT, I GUESS.
I DON'T RECALL EVER SAYING THAT...
WHAT?
HOLD UP! I THOUGHT THEY WERE DEAD?!
HUH?!
HITCHHIKER
HOKKAIDO
FIVE YEARS AGO, DURING THE TOHOKU FAMILY TRIP.
ERIKO
MIYUKI
JUNICHI
HM?
DADDY
DADDY, LOOK!
OH!
SAKI

10 HOURS LATER, ABASHIRI
NAOJIRO?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
HOW'S POPS?!
I NEED TO GET TO ABASHIRI, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
THANK YOU SO MUCH! ACTU-ALLY...
WHERE TO, FRIEND? WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO SAPPORO.
DON'T DIE ON ME, OLD MAN! I AIN'T MADE THINGS RIGHT YET!
NAOJIRO... IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME, SON.
...
POPS! IT'S ME, NAO!
WHEN I HEARD MY OLD MAN WAS ON HIS DEATHBED, I COULDN'T EVEN GET A TRAIN TICKET HOME.
WHAT A JOKE. I WALKED OUT 'CAUSE I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE UNDERWORLD, BUT I NEVER COULD MAKE IT ON MY OWN.
SAKI ...
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAUGHT THE SUHO FLU.
UM... THE WHAT FLU?
DAD-DY.
I WANT TO BE WITH HIM FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
WHAT ?!
I'M GONNA TURN MYSELF IN TO THE FUZZ.
I OWE YOU TWO. THANKS FOR GIVIN' ME A CHANCE TO SAY GOOD-BYE.


WHOA, WHOA! HOW'S JUNICHI SUPPOSED TO LIVE WITH A MOB FAMILY?!
YOU THREE COULD BARELY KEEP IT TOGETHER ALREADY.
OH, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL BE MOVING IN WITH THEM.
DOES HER MORAL COMPASS ONLY SWING TOWARDS WHAT'S "NICE" OR WHAT?
SHE'S TOO KIND FOR HER OWN GOOD...
SAKI EVEN DISOWNED HERSELF SO OUR FAMILY WOULDN'T BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRIME WORLD.
SPIN A FAIRLY BELIEVABLE YARN
?
FOR REAL?
THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?
NOT... Y'KNOW.


ACTUALLY, MY MOTHER PLANS ON MOVING IN WITH HER BOYFRIEND, EBARA-SAN, WITH MARRIAGE DOWN THE LINE, OF COURSE.
SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH THE ONE SHE LOVES AS SHE CAN SINCE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN LIFE WILL TEAR YOU APART.
HUH?! BUT...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOM?


WELL, YOU SEE...
AND JUNICHI?
SURE, THAT WORKS, I GUESS...
sounds like a dirty joke to me.
APPAR-ENTLY, THE LINE HE USED TO PROPOSE WAS "I'D LIKE TO SURVEY YOUR ASSETS AND ADJUST FOR INFLATION."

HUH? UHH...
EH, IT WASN'T TOO BAD.
SO, HOW'D YOU LIKE HELPING OUT WITH THE SOUP KITCHEN?

I WAS SURE YOU'D TRY TO BAIL AT LEAST ONCE, DEALING WITH ALL THOSE STRANGERS.
I was ready to drag you back black and blue.
WELL... I DEFINITELY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
BUT NAKA-HARA-SAN AND TACHIBANA-SAN WERE REALLY COOL, SO I DIDN'T WANNA JUST DITCH THEM.

HON-ESTLY, YOU'RE THE ONE I CAN'T STAND THE MOST.
'ZAT SO? WELL, *EXCUSE* ME.
THE OWNER WAS NICE TOO, BUT... HE KINDA RUBBED ME THE WRONG WAY.
LITERALLY.
OH, YEAH? THIS, I GOTTA HEAR.

I HEARD YOU'RE MOVING OUT.
UH-HUH.
BUT, UH...
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I'M KINDA GLAD YOU SHOWED UP.
I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL IT A CALLING,
BUT I THINK I FOUND A JOB I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD DOWN FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST.
THING IS, THE PLACE I WANNA WORK'S KINDA OUT OF THE WAY, AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY AT HOME WITH THE REPAIRS GOING ON, SO I FIGURE I'D GET MY OWN PLACE FOR A CHANGE.

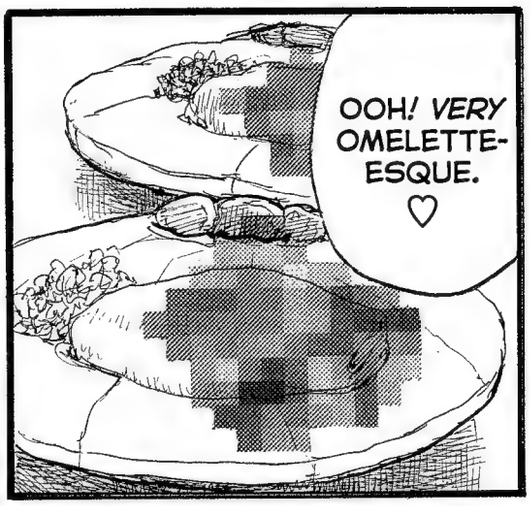
SAKI? WELL...
DON'T YOU WANT TO MOVE IN WITH YOUR LITTLE SISTER LIKE ERIKO-SAN'S DOING?
I NEED TO BE CERTIFIED FOR THE JOB, BUT IT DOESN'T SOUND TOO HARD TO GET.
AT ANY RATE, I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN.
I THINK SHE JUST GOT TIRED OF MY BULLSHIT.
I MEAN, WHO WANTS TO LIVE WITH A BIG BROTHER WHO CAN'T OR WON'T EVEN *TRY* TO MAKE NICE WITH STEPFAMILY OR SOCIETY IN GENERAL?
IF I WERE TO GO SEE HER WITHOUT GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER, SHE'D PROBABLY JUST DISAPPEAR ON ME AGAIN.
I FIGURE IF I CAN HOLD THIS JOB DOWN FOR... LET'S SAY TWO YEARS,
THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO FACE HER AGAIN WITH MY HEAD HELD HIGH.
FROM WHAT ERIKO-SAN TOLD ME, I'M PRETTY SURE THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT HEY, AS LONG AS HE'S GOT A PLAN...
But I'll just keep that under my hat.

SALVAGING YOUR GUYS' HOME LIFE WAS NEVER MY M.O., DUDE.
FROM DAY ONE, I WAS ONLY IN THIS TO HELP YOU.
HEY, UM...
SORRY THINGS TURNED OUT THE WAY THEY DID.
YOU TRIED YOUR BEST TO KEEP MY FAMILY TOGETHER,
BUT WE KINDA ENDED UP FALLING APART ANY-WAY.
HUH?
BESIDES, SO YOU GUYS ARE GOING YOUR SEPARATE WAYS.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD.
WHAT MATTERS IS YOU'RE ALL MOVING FORWARD.

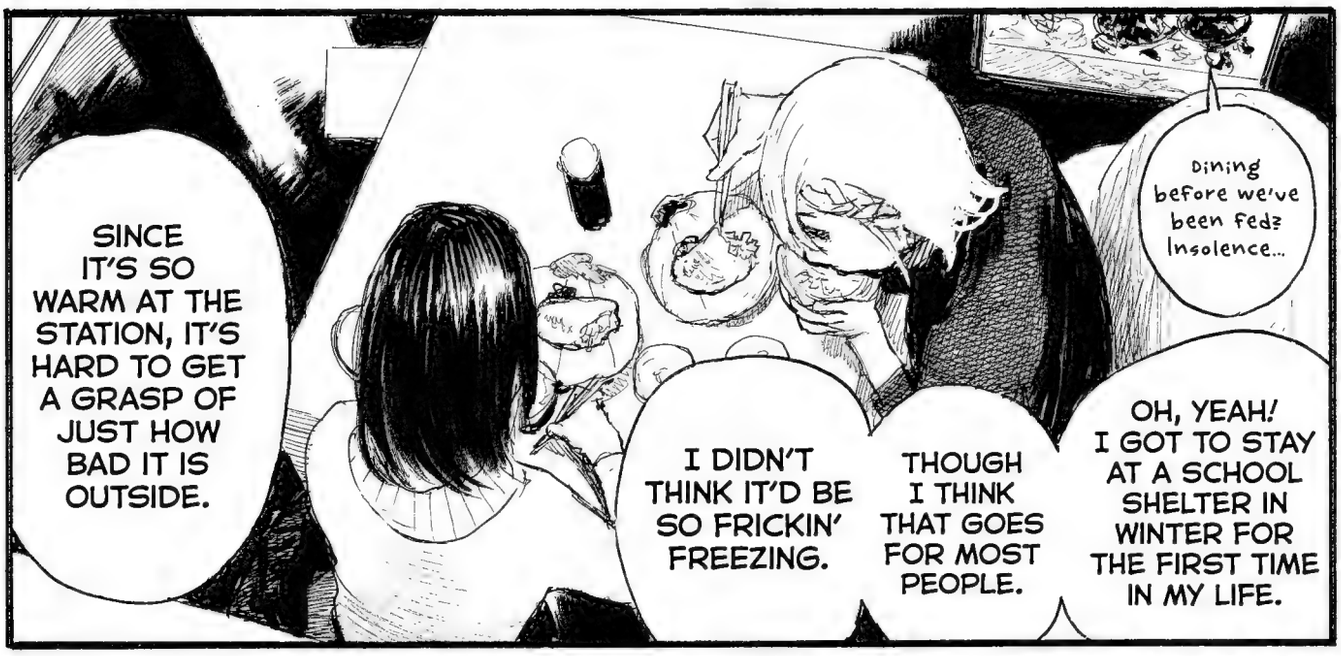
AHH...
THE BLISS OF STEEPING IN A HOT BATH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR DAYS.
TRULY PARADISE ON EARTH.

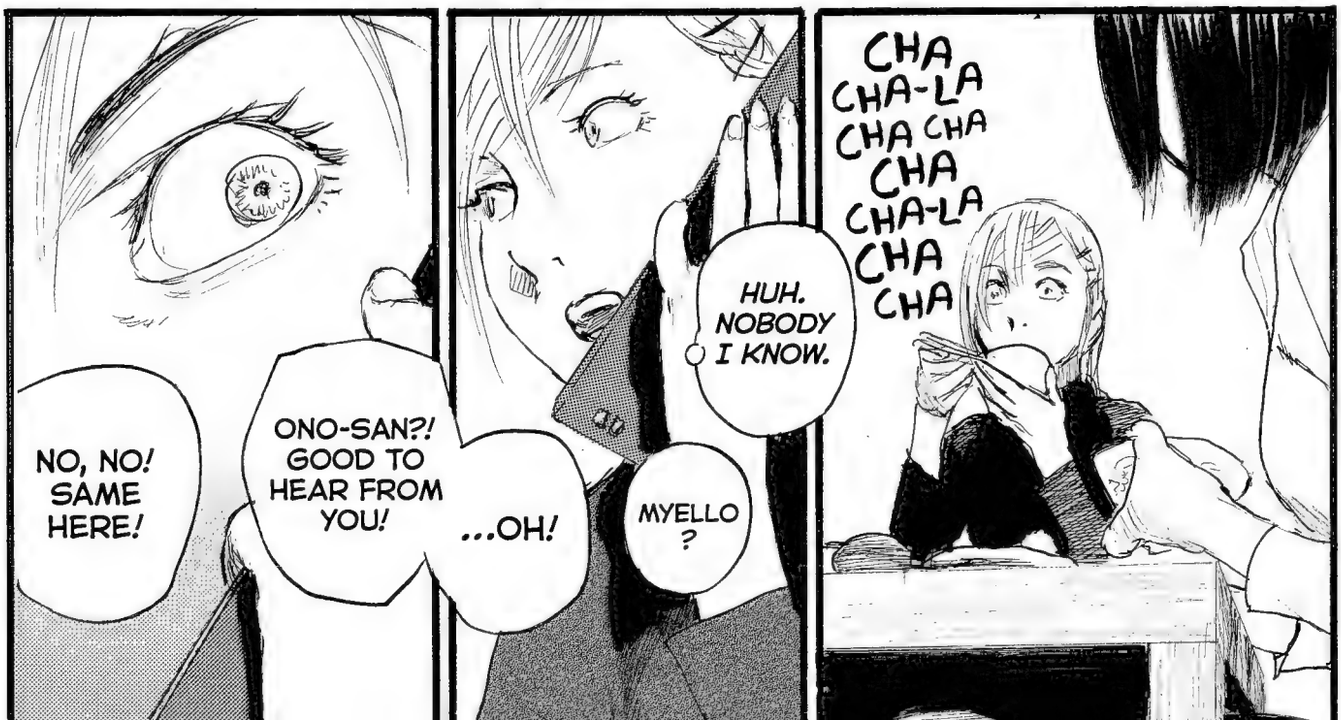
GOOD TIMING. I JUST FINISHED MAKING DINNER.
I HOPE YOU LIKE OMELETTES, BECAUSE WE'RE HAVING SOMETHING CLOSE.
MIZUHO, CHECK IT OUT!
MY SKIN'S SHINIER THAN A BRAND NEW OLED SCREEN.
HOKKAIDO'S OWN
WU HU WILD RICE

LIFE DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN THIS!
A WARM APART-MENT,
A COLD BEER AFTER A BATH,
AND MY HONEY'S HOME COOKING.
OH! LOOK OUTSIDE, MINARE-SAN.


OOH! VERY OMELETTE-ESQUE. ♡

I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE STILL LIVING OUT OF SHELTERS...
...BUT THANK GOD THE SNOW WAITED UNTIL THE POWER WAS BACK UP.
THAT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO STICK.
PHEW. JUST IN TIME TO BRING IN DECEMBER.


SINCE IT'S SO WARM AT THE STATION, IT'S HARD TO GET A GRASP OF JUST HOW BAD IT IS OUTSIDE.
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE SO FRICKIN' FREEZING.
THOUGH I THINK THAT GOES FOR MOST PEOPLE.
OH, YEAH! I GOT TO STAY AT A SCHOOL SHELTER IN WINTER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
Dining before we've been fed? Insolence...


NO, NO! SAME HERE!
ONO-SAN?! GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU!
...OH!
MYELLO ?
HUH. NOBODY I KNOW.
CHA CHA-LA CHA CHA CHA CHA-LA CHA CHA

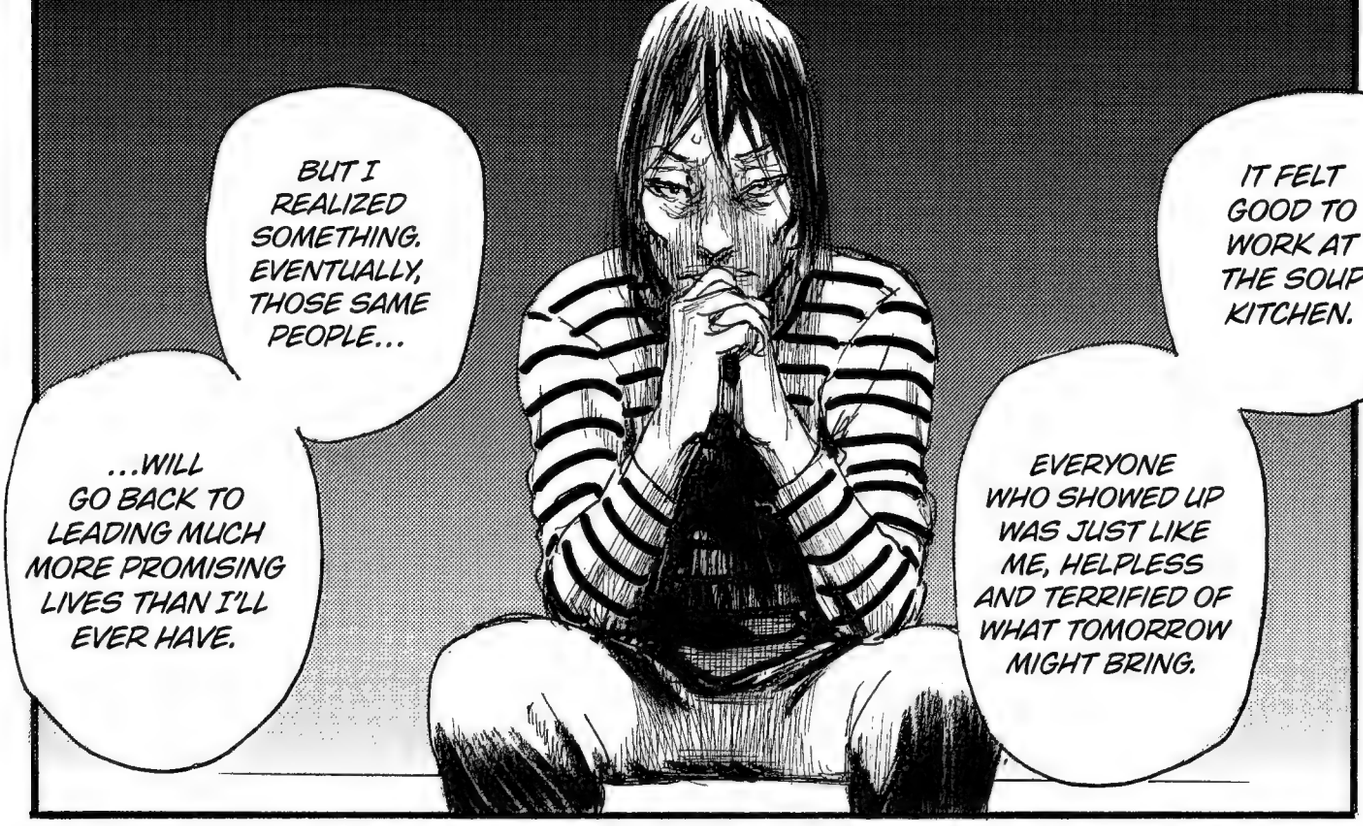
TAKE YOUR TIME. I'LL REHEAT YOUR FOOD IF IT GETS COLD.
OH, SORRY. I WAS JUST SITTING DOWN FOR DINNER, ACTUALLY. ...NO WORRIES, I CAN TALK.
CAN'T BLAME HER, THOUGH. SOMETHING TELLS ME DRESSING HER BABY BOY IN DRAG MIGHT'VE PUT A FEW IDEAS IN HIS HEAD.
HIS MOM GAVE ME THE TONGUE-LASHING OF A LIFETIME.
HIROMI? HE'S BACK HOME, SAFE AND SOUND.
NOOO. IT'S FINE.

HUH?

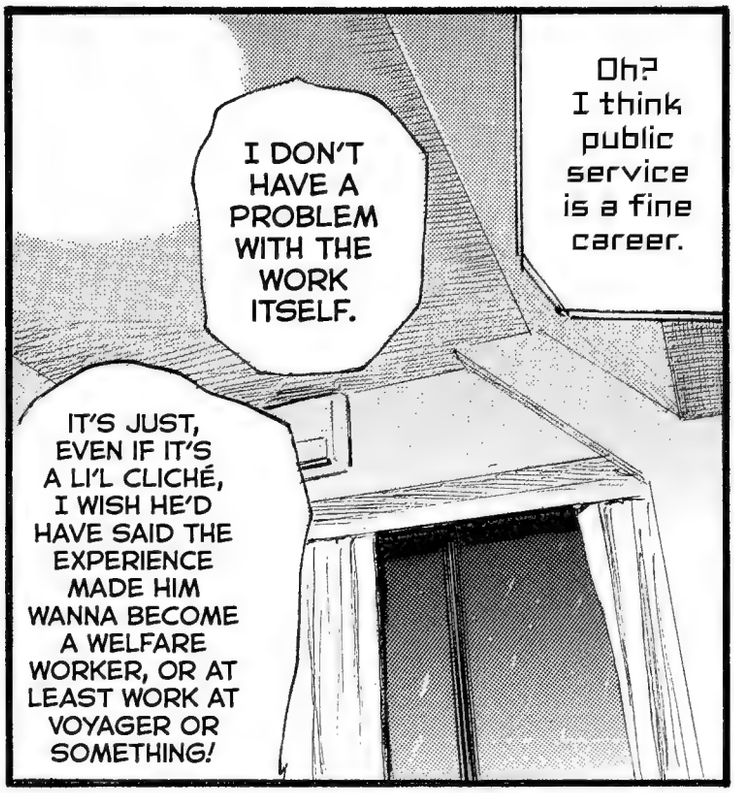
OH, RIGHT!
I WANTED TO ASK, WHAT KINDA JOB DID JUNICHI-KUN DECIDE ON, ANYWAY?

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
SOMETHING REMINISCENT OF AN OMELETTE.
WHY DO YOU ASK?

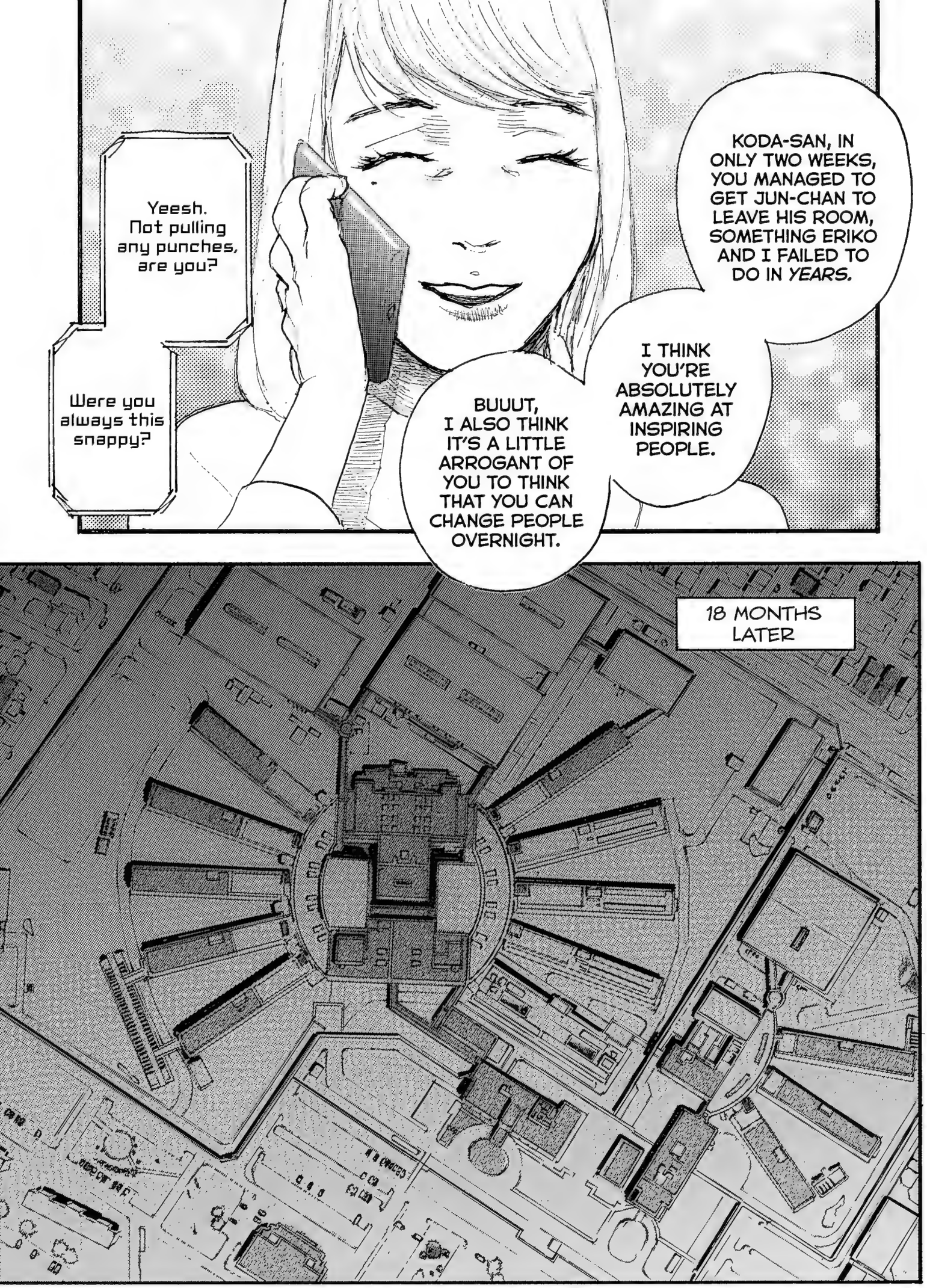
A prison guard ?!
THAT'S RIGHT. I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD HANDLE WORKING AS A CIVIL SERVANT,
BUT HE LOOKED ME RIGHT IN THE EYE AND SAID...

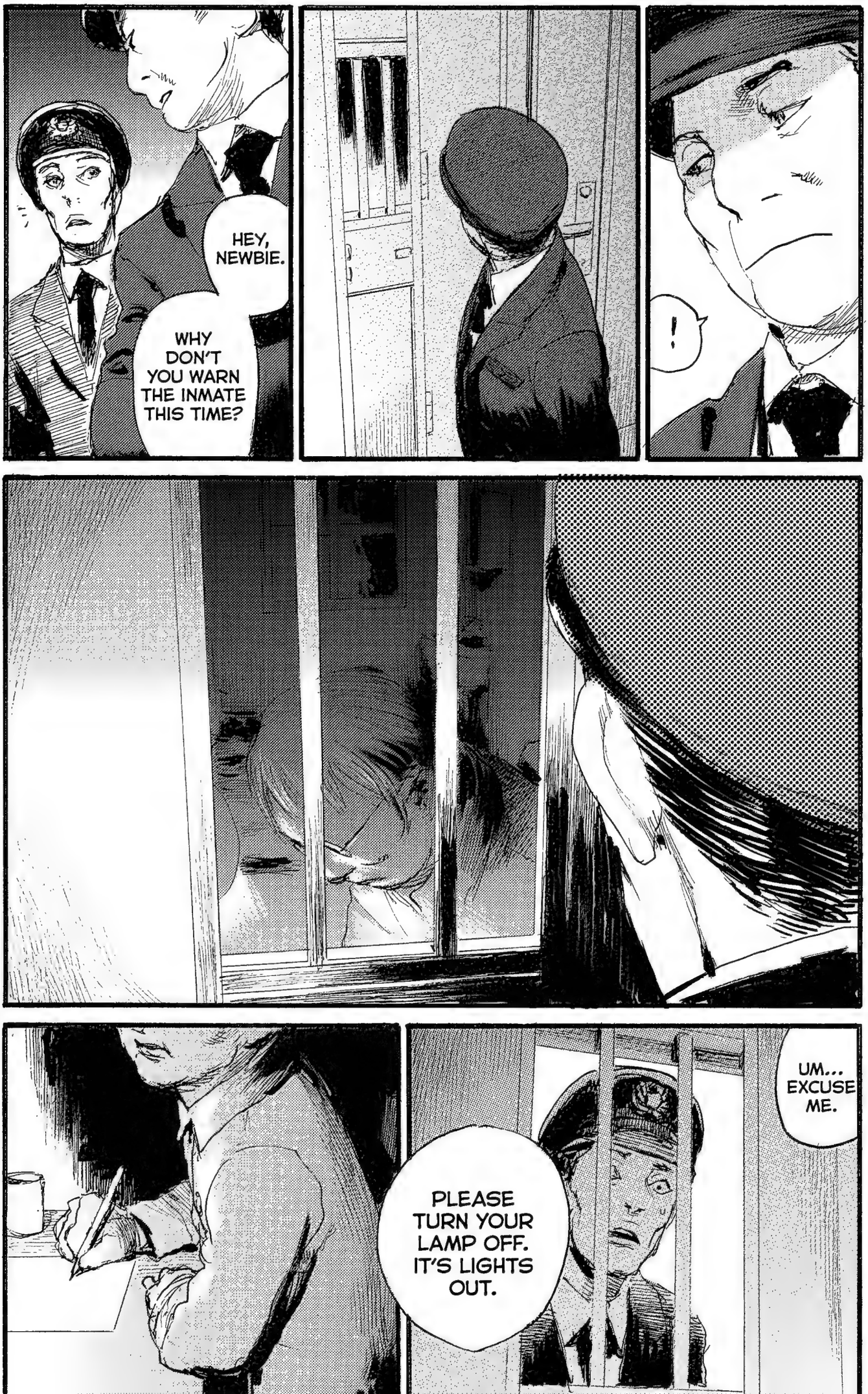

IT FELT GOOD TO WORK AT THE SOUP KITCHEN.
EVERYONE WHO SHOWED UP WAS JUST LIKE ME, HELPLESS AND TERRIFIED OF WHAT TOMORROW MIGHT BRING.
BUT I REALIZED SOMETHING. EVENTUALLY, THOSE SAME PEOPLE...
...WILL GO BACK TO LEADING MUCH MORE PROMISING LIVES THAN I'LL EVER HAVE.

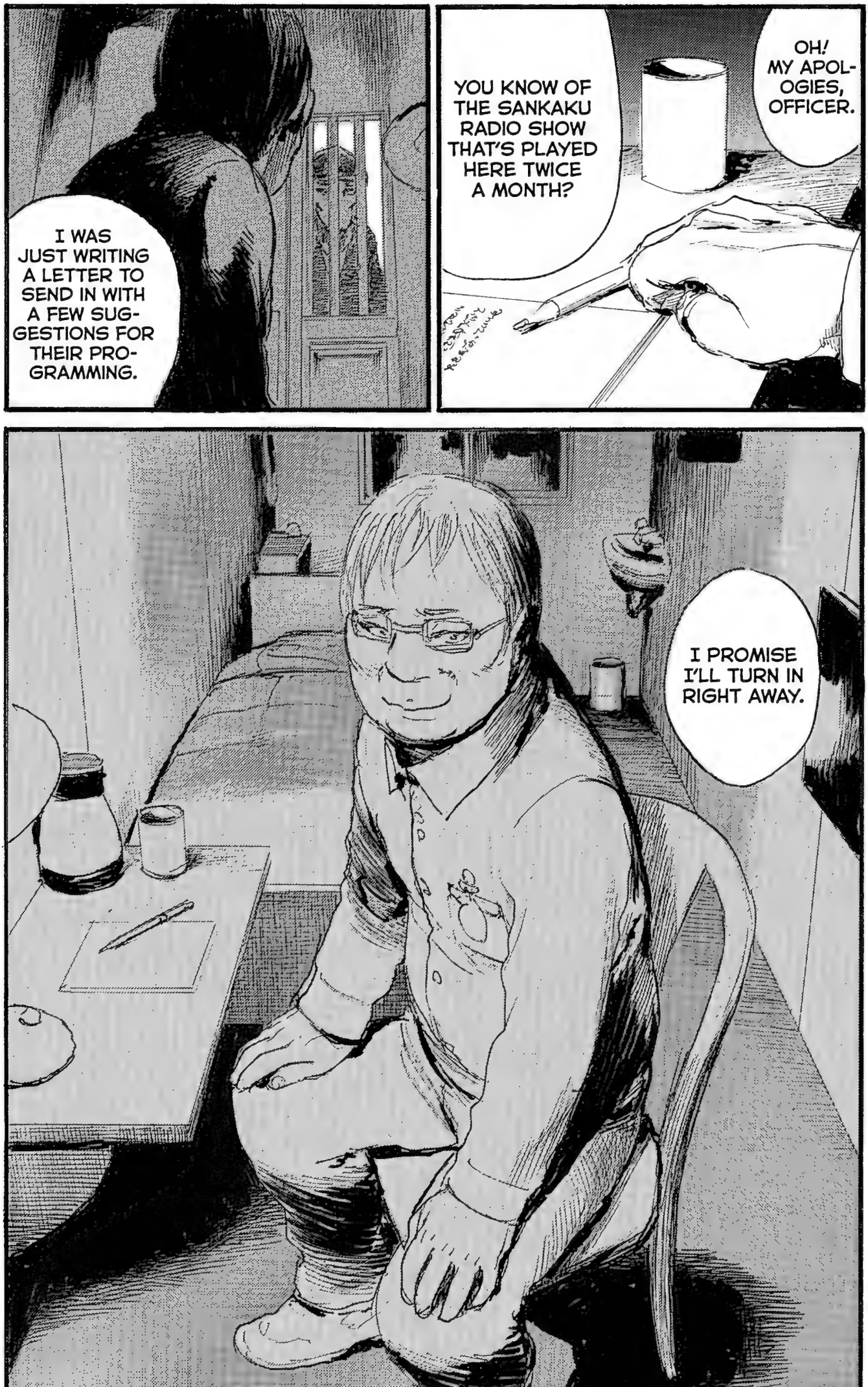
I WANT TO BE IN A POSITION ...
...WHERE I CAN ALWAYS LOOK DOWN ON OTHER PEOPLE.
SOMEWHERE I WON'T HAVE TO FEEL INADEQUATE. I CAN HOLD DOWN A JOB LIKE THAT NO SWEAT.


Oh? I think public service is a fine career.
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE WORK ITSELF.
IT'S JUST, EVEN IF IT'S A LI'L CLICHÉ, I WISH HE'D HAVE SAID THE EXPERIENCE MADE HIM WANNA BECOME A WELFARE WORKER, OR AT LEAST WORK AT VOYAGER OR SOMETHING!

THE HELL KINDA MOTIVE IS THAT ?!
UGH, WHAT A SCUM-BAG!
COV-ERING THE MIC.
HE VOLUNTEERS FOR TWO DAYS AND *THAT'S* WHAT HE GETS OUT OF IT?! GIMME A FUCKIN' BREAK!


KODA-SAN, IN ONLY TWO WEEKS, YOU MANAGED TO GET JUN-CHAN TO LEAVE HIS ROOM, SOMETHING ERIKO AND I FAILED TO DO IN *YEARS*.
I THINK YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING AT INSPIRING PEOPLE.
BUUUT, I ALSO THINK IT'S A LITTLE ARROGANT OF YOU TO THINK THAT YOU CAN CHANGE PEOPLE OVERNIGHT.
Were you always this snappy?
Yeesh. Not pulling any punches, are you?
18 MONTHS LATER


HEY, NEWBIE.
WHY DON'T YOU WARN THE INMATE THIS TIME?
!
UM... EXCUSE ME.
PLEASE TURN YOUR LAMP OFF. IT'S LIGHTS OUT.


I WAS JUST WRITING A LETTER TO SEND IN WITH A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR THEIR PROGRAMMING.
YOU KNOW OF THE SANKAKU RADIO SHOW THAT'S PLAYED HERE TWICE A MONTH?
OH! MY APOLOGIES, OFFICER.
I PROMISE I'LL TURN IN RIGHT AWAY.

wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

Chapter 61.5 「 IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. 」

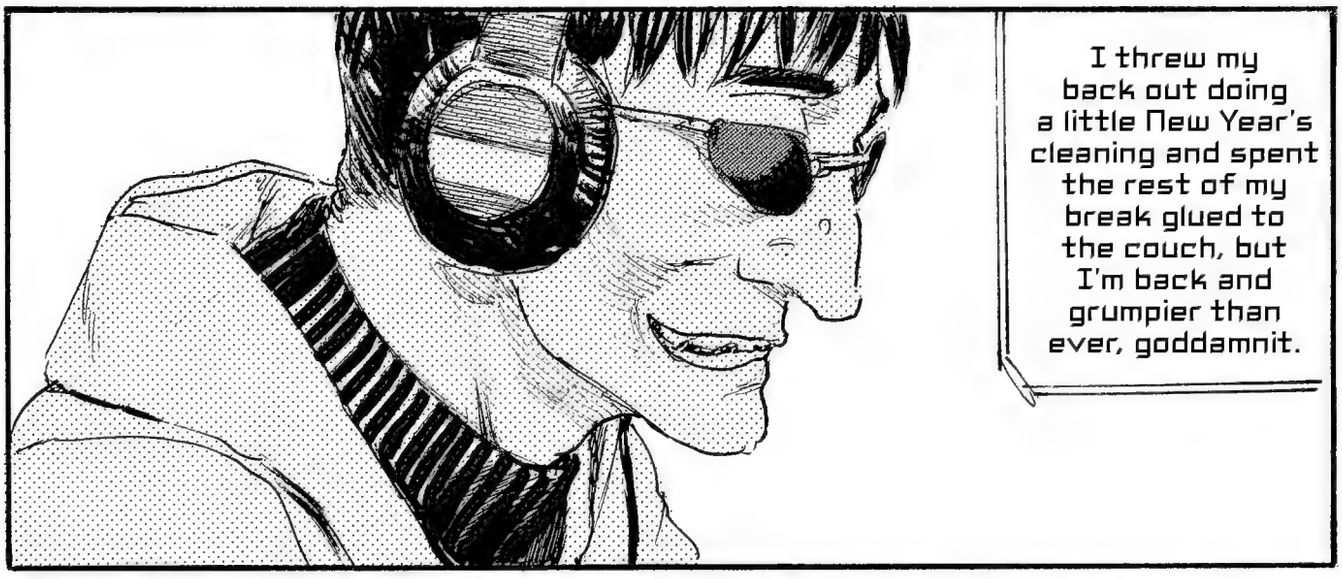
FEELS LIKE IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE YEARS, PERSONALLY.
MM-HM.
BUT 40 TO 50 WENT BY IN A FLASH. NOTHIN' SPECIAL ABOUT BIRTHDAYS ONCE YOU'RE OVER THE HILL, EH, KUREKO?
I MIGHTA HAD MORE TO SAY BEFORE I TURNED 40,
AIN'T THAT SIMPLE, I'M AFRAID.
AND HERE I THOUGHT ALL THE QUAKE DRAMA WOULD'VE PUSHED YOU AND OHORI-SAN TO PATCH THINGS UP.
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
AS FOR THE SICH DOWN SOUTH,
I'VE BEEN NOTICING MORE GRAY HAIRS LATELY.
GROSS.
THASSA 'BOUT IT.
I HONESTLY THOUGHT TO MYSELF...
UH-HUH. WHEN I WAS RUNNING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN MRS AND MOTOMACHI ON VIRTUALLY NO SLEEP,
THAT RIGHT?
THERE ACTUALLY WAS A MOMENT WHEN I WISHED HE WAS AROUND.
REAL TALK?
YOU WEREN'T SUDDENLY ACHING TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH MITSUO EITHER, RIGHT?

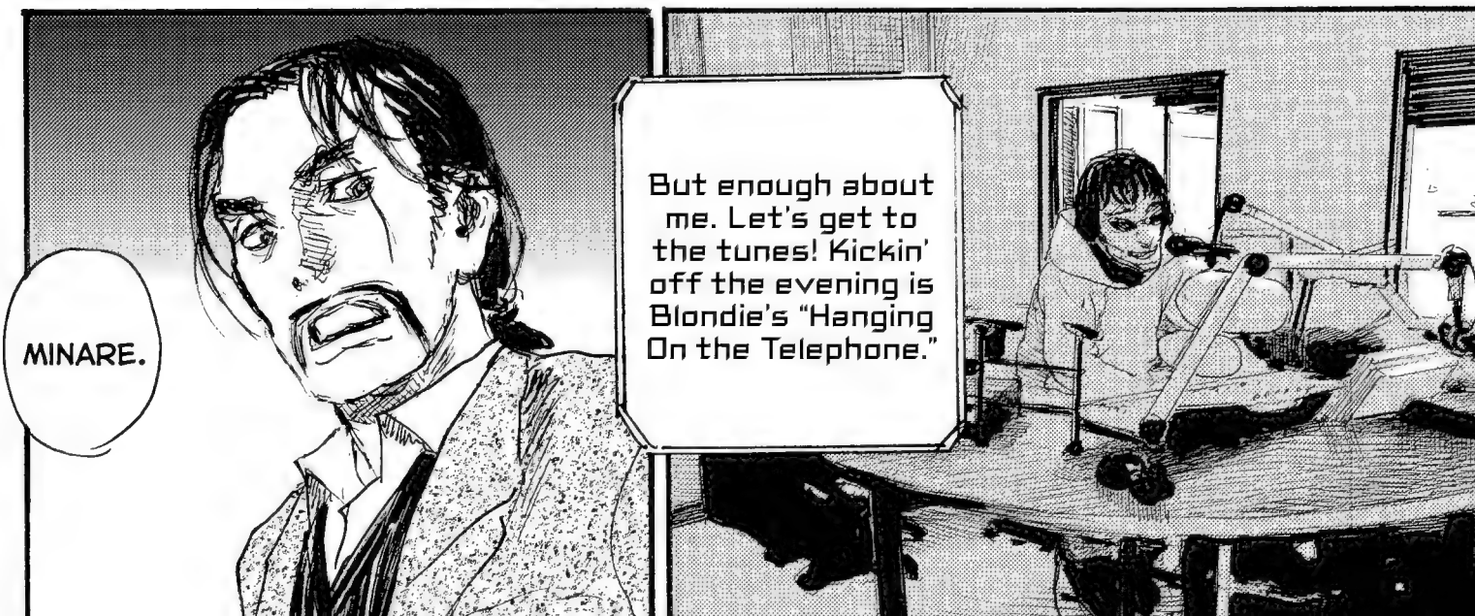
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
ISN'T EVERYONE HERE SINGLE? WHAT A SAD COINCIDENCE.
I coulda used the stress relief.
"SURE WISH I HAD A PUNCHING BAG RIGHT ABOUT NOW."
THANK GOD HE'S OUTTA THE PICTURE, THEN,
OR YOUR ASS WOULD BE LOCKED UP.
AND I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW SLICK OVER THERE'S SHARING A ROOF WITH A BROODY BABE TOO.
I MEAN, WE *ARE*, BUT...
WHAT?! WE'RE NOT...
OH! MY MISTAKE.
I countz
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'VE GOT MIZUHO.
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU LOSERS.
THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT WHAT BETTER TIME TO MAKE AMENDS THAN WHEN THE WORLD'S COMING UNDONE.
OH, YEAH. I CAUGHT THAT TOO.
THAT REMINDS ME. BADGER TAIJI OVER AT HCB RADIO HAD A LOVELY LITTLE SEGMENT DURING THE BLACKOUT.

DON'T GO BLAMING IT ALL ON AGE.
BUT NOW THAT I'M 50, WELL... Y'KNOW.
IF I WERE A COUPLE DECADES YOUNGER, I'D BE ALL FOR IT.
OUR LOT ARE KEENER TO KEEP THE STATUS QUO THAN SUFFER EVEN A BIT OF CHANGE.
SAME GOES FOR RELATION-SHIPS.
ONLY BLOCKHEADS LIKE US ARE STUBBORN ENOUGH TO STICK IT OUT IN RADIO THESE DAYS.
I DEMAND JUICY GOSSIP! FEED ME, DAMN IT!
A DREAMLAND OF BREAD AND CURRY. VOYAGER
EASY, MINARE-SAN. HERE, YOU CAN HAVE A PIECE OF MY CHICKEN.
VOYAGER
OH, FUCK THAT!
DON'T TRY TO LAUGH THIS OFF LIKE SOME AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIAL!
HA HA HA... TRUE ENOUGH.
BUT DIVORCE IS STILL AN OPTION, HM?

Chapter 62 「I CAN'T HOLD BACK ALL THE TIME.」

It's Friday, January 8th. You're listening to *Go For Broke* at 10:30. I'm your host, Hoshino Rouge-Rian.
MIRAS


I threw my back out doing a little New Year's cleaning and spent the rest of my break glued to the couch, but I'm back and grumpier than ever, goddamnit.


MINARE.
But enough about me. Let's get to the tunes! Kickin' off the evening is Blondie's "Hanging On the Telephone."

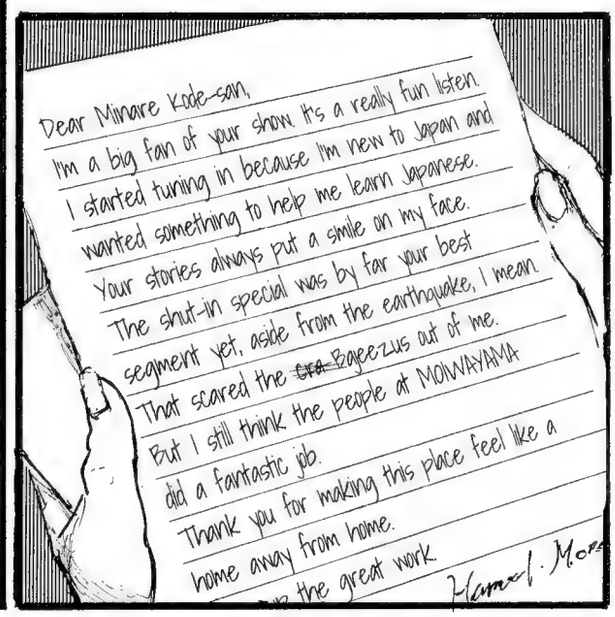
AS OF THIS WEEK, *WAVE'S* GETTING A BUMP UP THE TIMETABLE.
I'VE GOT GREAT NEWS AND FAIRLY GOOD NEWS. WHICH DO YOU WANT FIRST?
UHH. GIMME THE GREAT FIRST, I GUESS.
WHAT'S WITH THE AIR OF SUSPENSE?
SERI-OUSLY?!
THE SHOW ON THE 12TH WILL START AT 3:00 A.M., HALF AN HOUR EARLIER THAN USUAL.
HEEEY. I KNEW YOU'D BE EXCITED.
UH, NO. WHAT I MEAN IS...
...THAT'S WHAT COUNTS AS "GREAT NEWS" THESE DAYS?
ROCK BOTTOM AND *J-HITS PLANET* ARE FUSING INTO A NEW SHOW WITH A 30-MINUTE CUT IN AIRTIME.
TIME THAT WILL BE TACKED ON TO *WAVE*, MAKING YOUR SLOT A WHOLE 50 MINUTES LONG.
...HUH?! HOLD UP.
SO, YOU'RE TELLIN' ME...

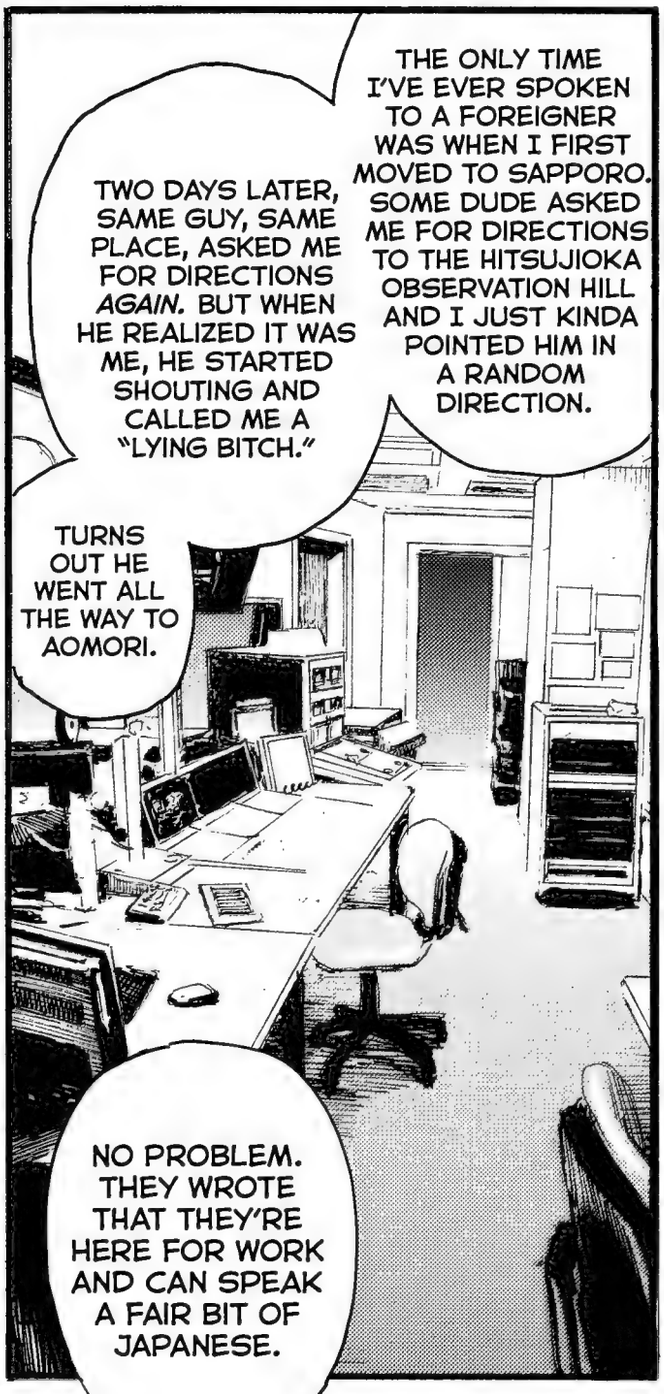
MINARE, DID YOU KNOW THAT JUST LAST MONTH, RADIO SWITCHED FROM MEASURING RATINGS BASED OFF OF PAPER SURVEYS GATHERED OVER A MERE SIX WEEK PERIOD...
...TO DIGITAL DATA COLLECTED DAILY?
WHY WOULD I?
...I'LL STILL GET OUT AT THE SAME TIME?!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT YOUR SHOW'S EXPANDING.
UMM.
FOR THE RECORD, HOW MANY OTHER TALK SHOWS ARE ON AT THE SAME TIME?
NOT A SINGLE ONE.
FIGURED.
YOUR SHOW TOPPED EVERY OTHER STATION IN HOKKAIDO FOR THAT TIMESLOT.
NOW, NOW. IT REALLY WAS A STUNNING FIGURE FOR THE TIME.
THIS JUST GOES TO SHOW FOLKS HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.

*APPROX. $28 USD.

*LOWEST OF FIVE RANKS IN THE *MAKUUCHI* WRESTLING DIVISION.

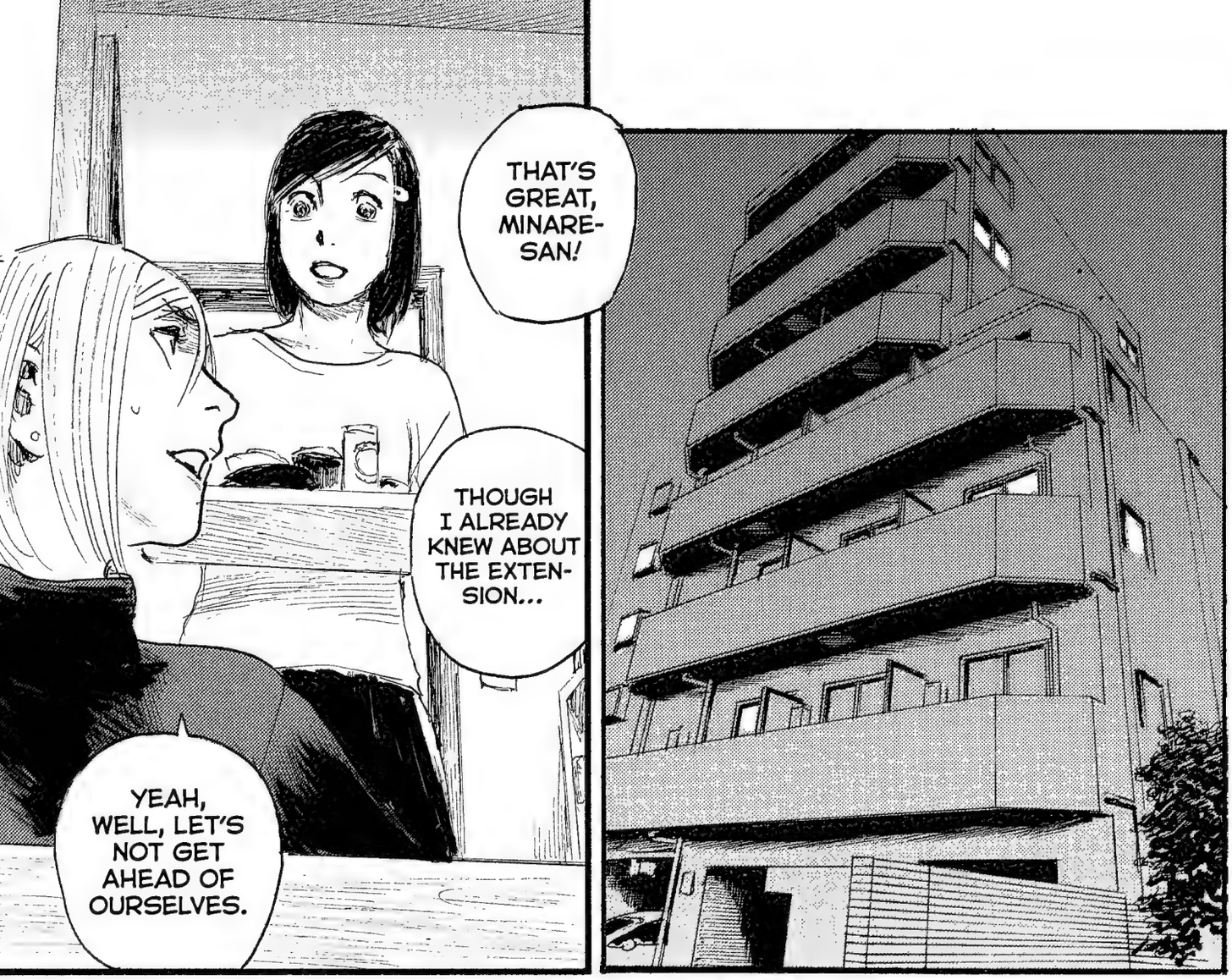
NICE CHICKEN SCRATCH. WAIT...
IS THIS FROM AN AMERICAN?
BRITISH, ACTUALLY.

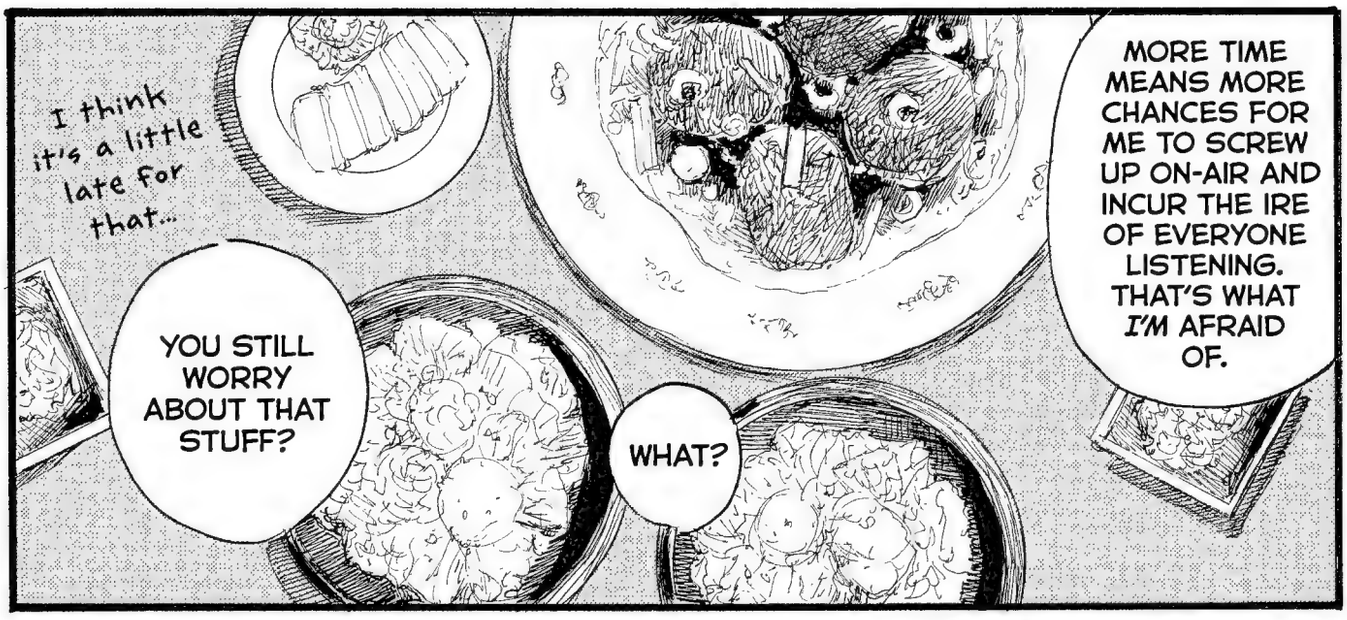

Dear Minare Kode-san,
I'm a big fan of your show. It's a really fun listen
I started tuning in because I'm new to Japan and
wanted something to help me learn Japanese.
Your stories always put a smile on my face.
The shut-in special was by far your best
segment yet, aside from the earthquake, I mean.
That scared the ~~USA~~ Bajeezus out of me.
But I still think the people at MOMIYAMA
did a fantastic job.
Thank you for making this place feel like a
home away from home.
the great work.


THE ONLY TIME I'VE EVER SPOKEN TO A FOREIGNER WAS WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO SAPPORO. SOME DUDE ASKED ME FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE HITSUJIOKA OBSERVATION HILL AND I JUST KINDA POINTED HIM IN A RANDOM DIRECTION.
TWO DAYS LATER, SAME GUY, SAME PLACE, ASKED ME FOR DIRECTIONS *AGAIN.* BUT WHEN HE REALIZED IT WAS ME, HE STARTED SHOUTING AND CALLED ME A "LYING BITCH."
TURNS OUT HE WENT ALL THE WAY TO AOMORI.
NO PROBLEM. THEY WROTE THAT THEY'RE HERE FOR WORK AND CAN SPEAK A FAIR BIT OF JAPANESE.

SEEING AS WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED FOR THE EXTRA HALF HOUR...

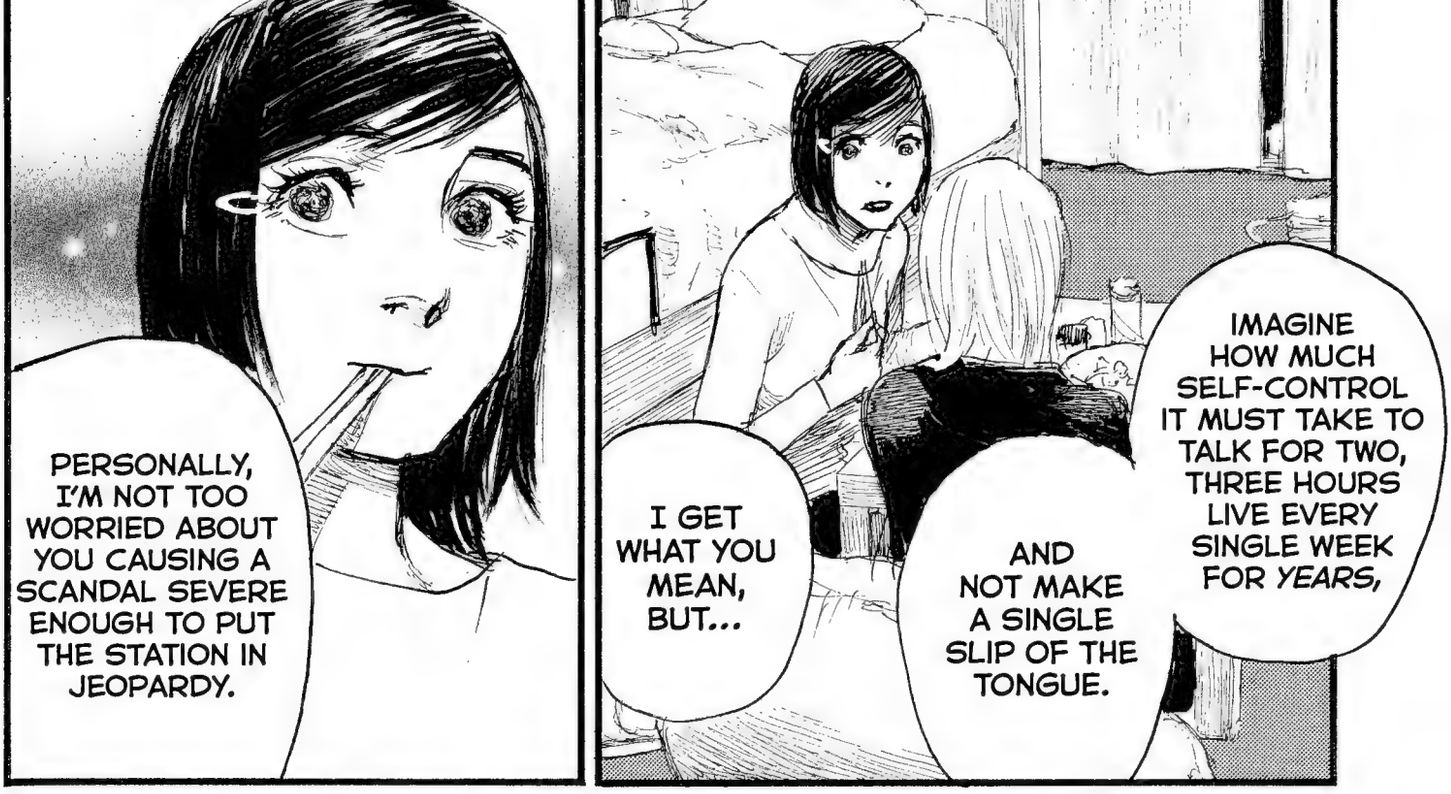
HUH?!
...WHAT SAY WE INVITE THEM ON THE SHOW?


THAT'S GREAT, MINARE-SAN!
THOUGH I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THE EXTEN-SION...
YEAH, WELL, LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES.

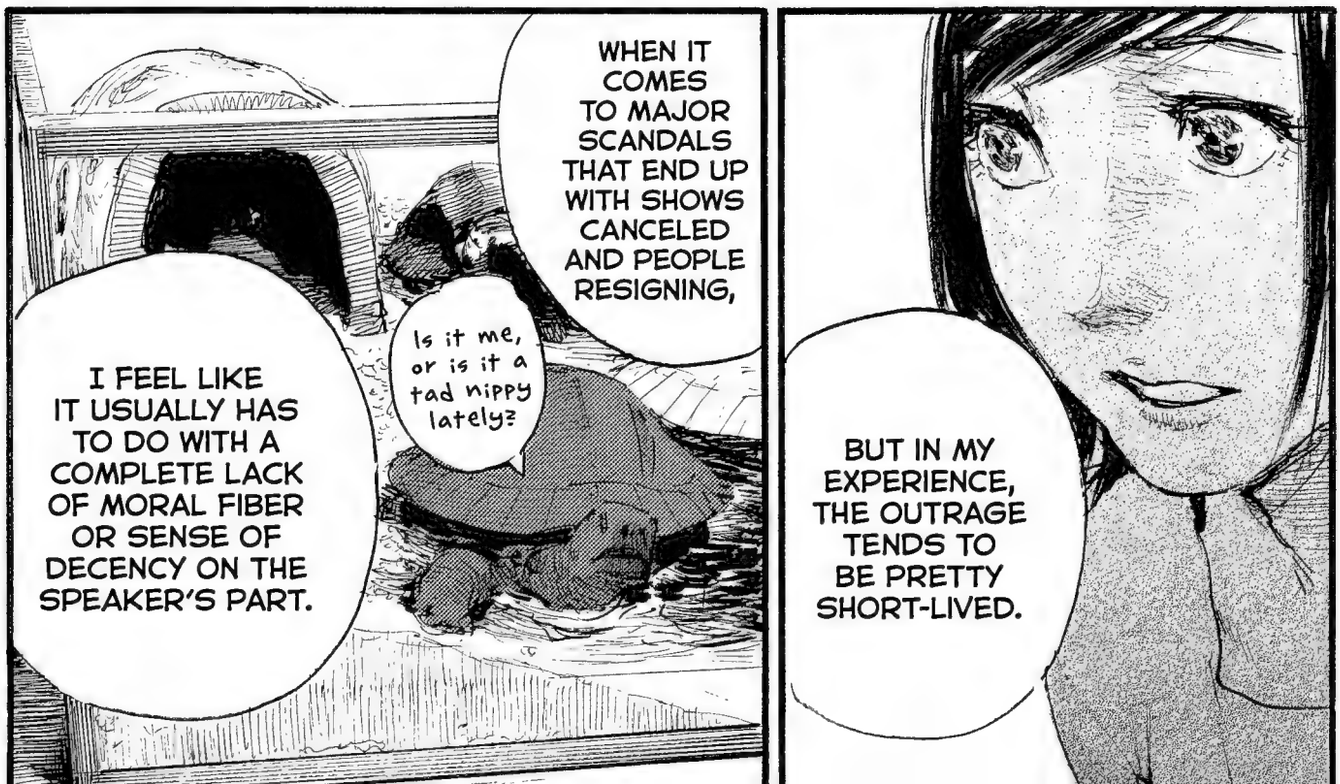

I think it's a little late for that...
YOU STILL WORRY ABOUT THAT STUFF?
WHAT?
MORE TIME MEANS MORE CHANCES FOR ME TO SCREW UP ON-AIR AND INCUR THE IRE OF EVERYONE LISTENING. THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.

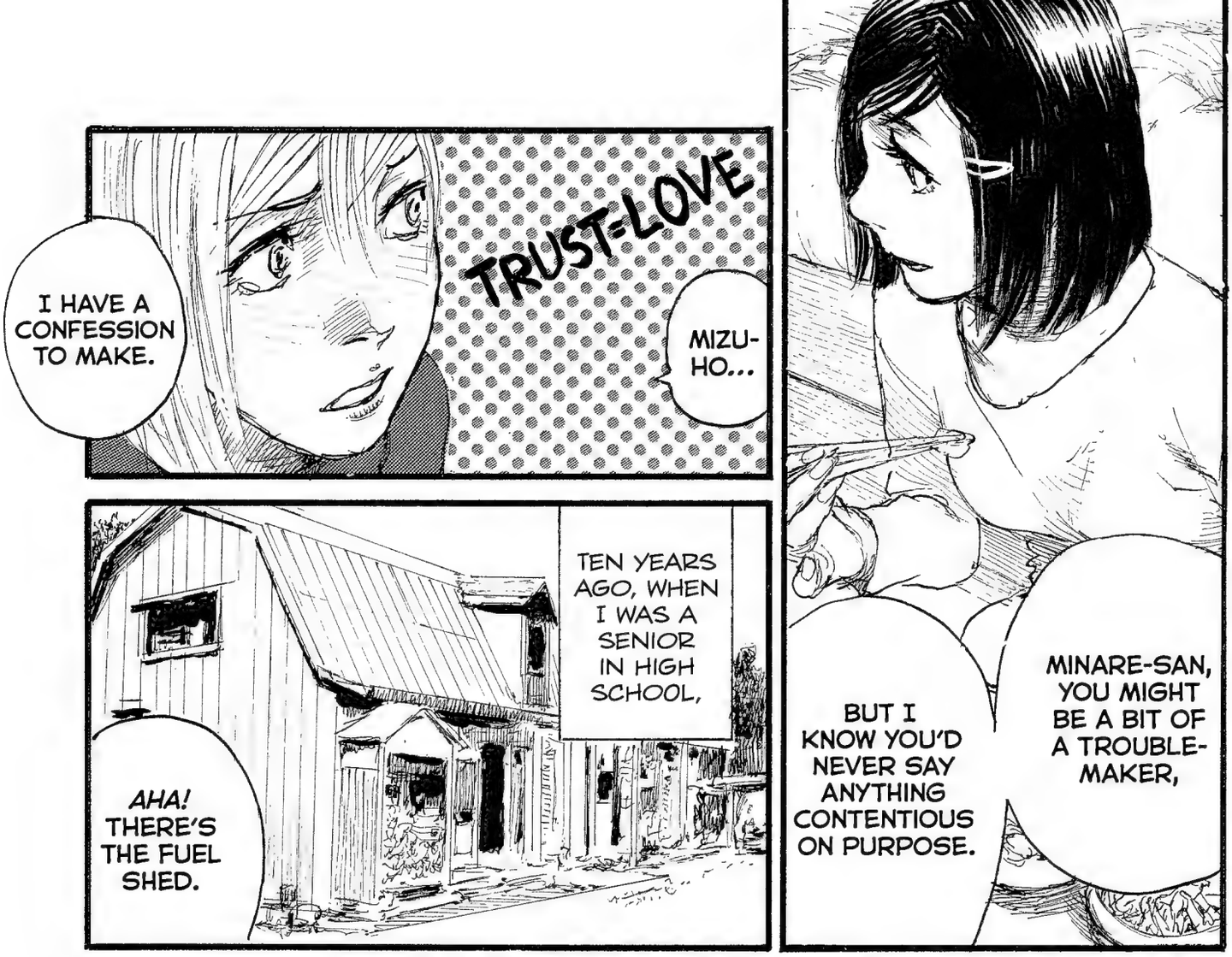
BUT DON'T BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO AFRAID OF BACKLASH, Y'KNOW?
I FEEL LIKE EVERYONE HAS A FEW OPINIONS THEY WISH THEY COULD SHARE,

I'M NOT TRYING TO DEFEND HIM OR ANY-THING, IT'S JUST...
LIKE, TAKE THAT COMEDIAN PEOPLE WERE BASHING FOR SOME SHIT HE SAID ON LATE-NIGHT RADIO, RIGHT?


PERSONALLY, I'M NOT TOO WORRIED ABOUT YOU CAUSING A SCANDAL SEVERE ENOUGH TO PUT THE STATION IN JEOPARDY.
I GET WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT...
AND NOT MAKE A SINGLE SLIP OF THE TONGUE.
IMAGINE HOW MUCH SELF-CONTROL IT MUST TAKE TO TALK FOR TWO, THREE HOURS LIVE EVERY SINGLE WEEK FOR *YEARS*,

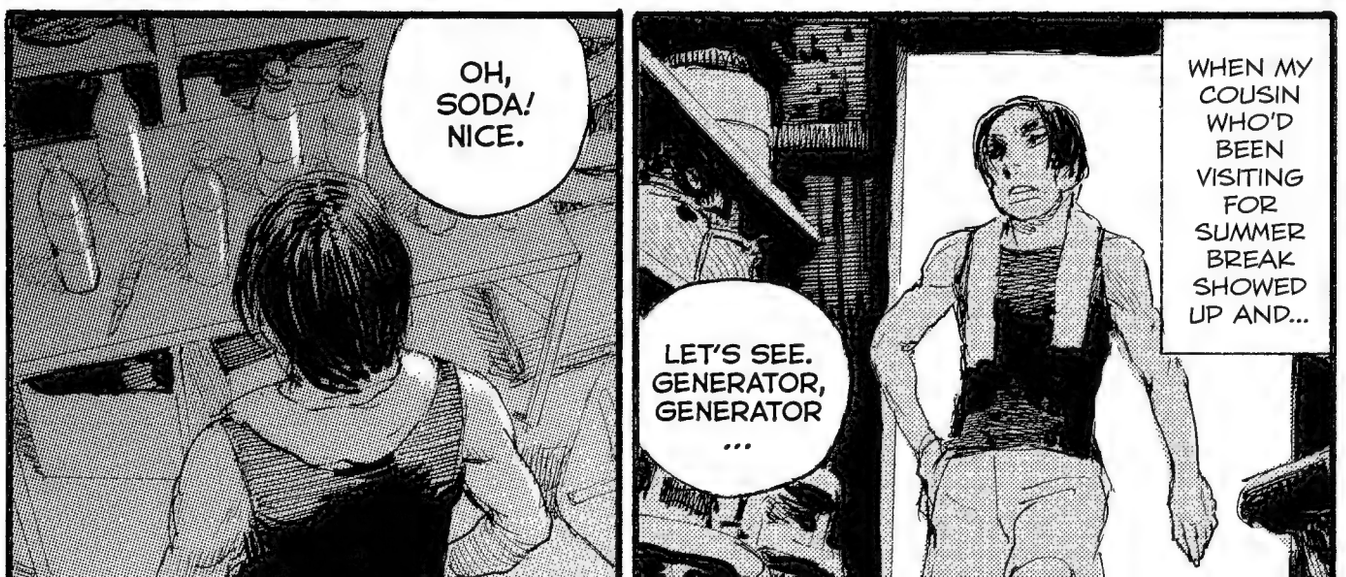
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT INCENDIARY COMMENTS OR EVEN JUST AN OFF-COLOR JOKE CAN GET PERSONALITIES IN A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC THESE DAYS,
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

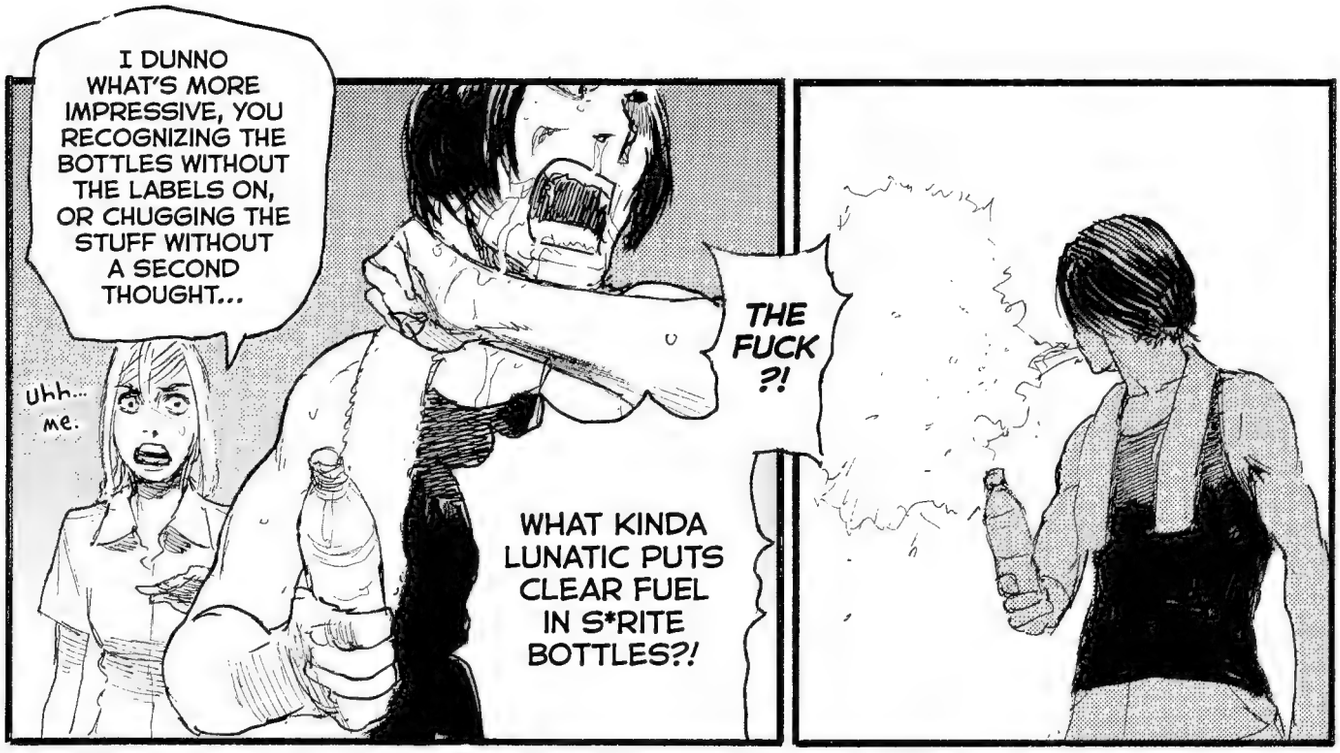

I FEEL LIKE IT USUALLY HAS TO DO WITH A COMPLETE LACK OF MORAL FIBER OR SENSE OF DECENCY ON THE SPEAKER'S PART.
Is it me, or is it a tad nippy lately?
WHEN IT COMES TO MAJOR SCANDALS THAT END UP WITH SHOWS CANCELED AND PEOPLE RESIGNING,
BUT IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE OUTRAGE TENDS TO BE PRETTY SHORT-LIVED.

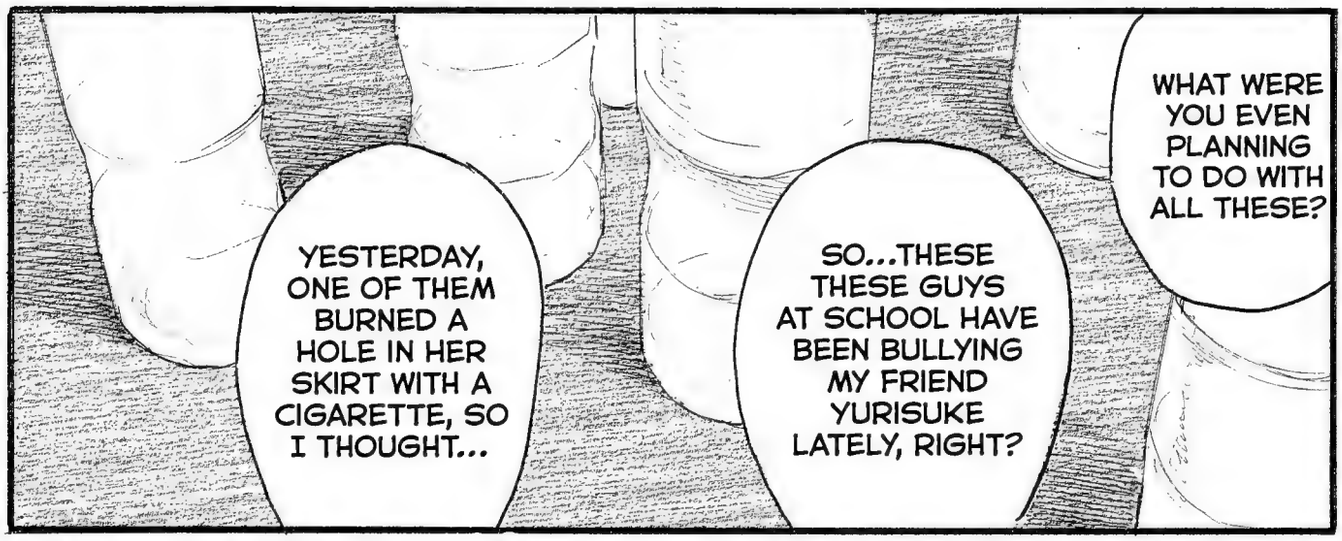

TRUST=LOVE
I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.
MIZU-HO...
MINARE-SAN, YOU MIGHT BE A BIT OF A TROUBLE-MAKER,
BUT I KNOW YOU'D NEVER SAY ANYTHING CONTENTIOUS ON PURPOSE.

TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL,
AHA! THERE'S THE FUEL SHED.

I FILLED A BUNCH OF PLASTIC BOTTLES WITH KEROSENE TO BE USED FOR...A JUST CAUSE, LET'S SAY.
ANYWAY, I TOTALLY FORGOT TO PUT THEM AWAY AND JUST LEFT THEM SITTING OUT IN THE SHED,


WHEN MY COUSIN WHO'D BEEN VISITING FOR SUMMER BREAK SHOWED UP AND...
LET'S SEE. GENERATOR, GENERATOR ...
OH, SODA! NICE.

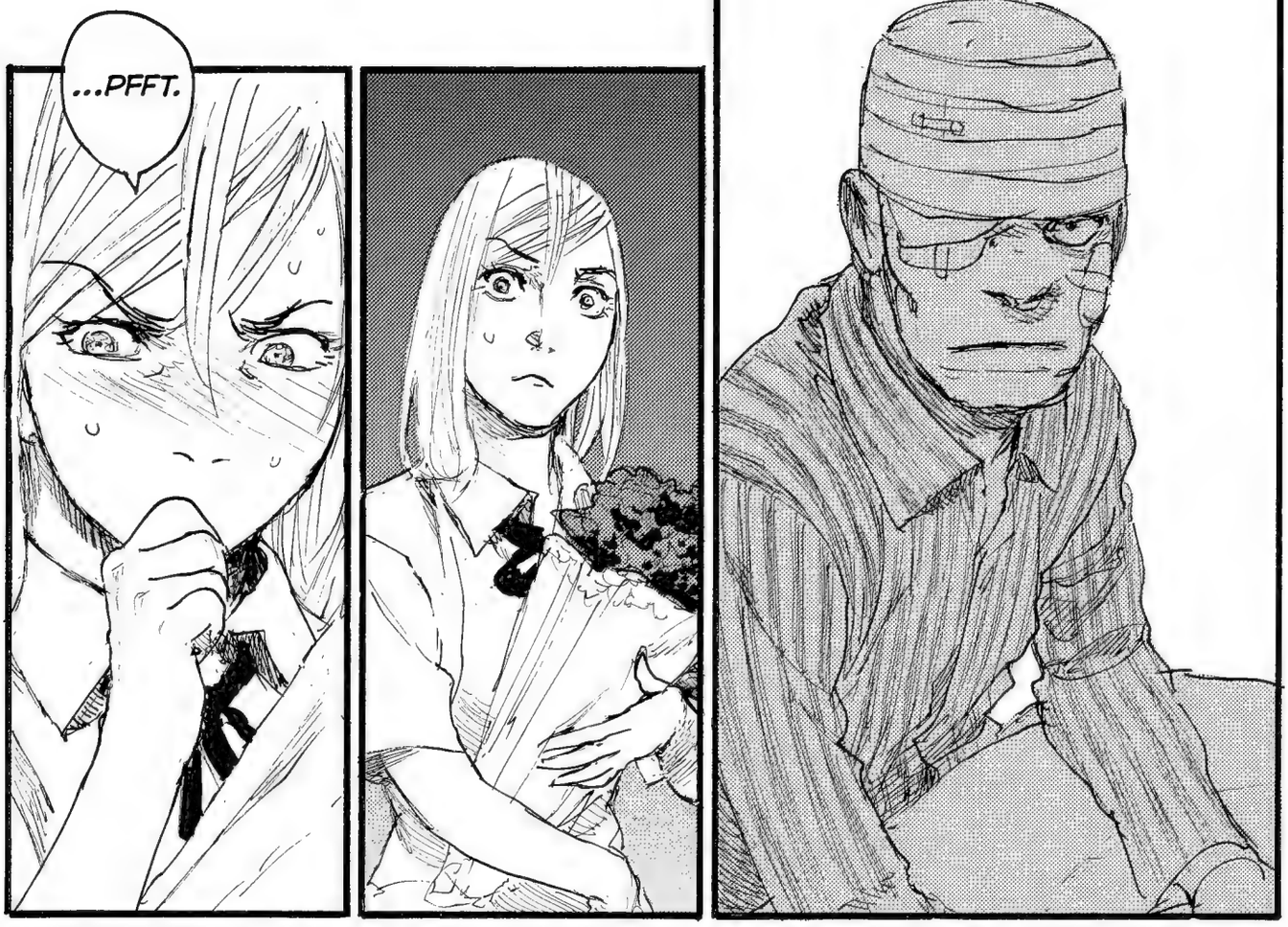

I DUNNO WHAT'S MORE IMPRESSIVE, YOU RECOGNIZING THE BOTTLES WITHOUT THE LABELS ON, OR CHUGGING THE STUFF WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT...
Uhh... me.
THE FUCK ?!
WHAT KINDA LUNATIC PUTS CLEAR FUEL IN S*RITE BOTTLES?!

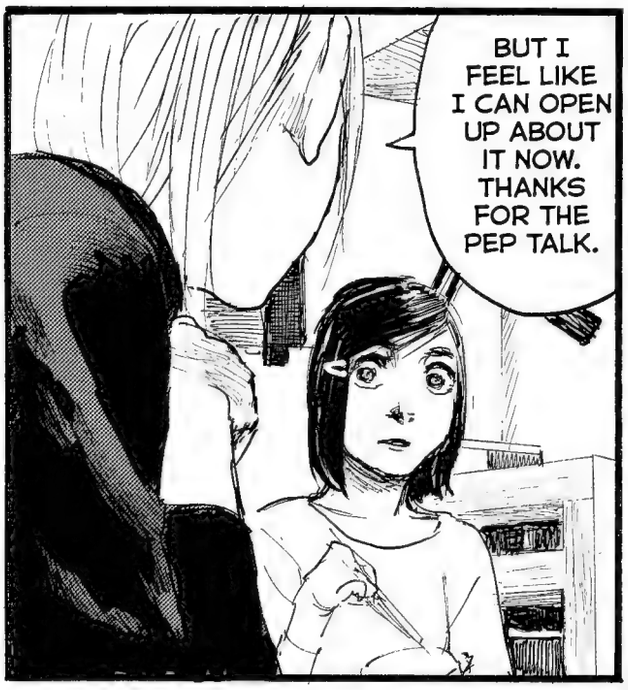

WHAT WERE YOU EVEN PLANNING TO DO WITH ALL THESE?
SO...THESE THESE GUYS AT SCHOOL HAVE BEEN BULLYING MY FRIEND YURISUKE LATELY, RIGHT?
YESTERDAY, ONE OF THEM BURNED A HOLE IN HER SKIRT WITH A CIGARETTE, SO I THOUGHT...

MI-NARE.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SETTLE DOWN A LITTLE?
AREN'T YOU APPLYING FOR COLLEGE NEXT YEAR?

I was gonna ambush them after school...
...WHY NOT FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE?
I OWE YOU ONE, MICHIHIRO.
IF YOU HADN'T OPENED THE BOTTLE, THE KODA FAMILY MIGHT'VE HAD A MURDER-ARSON CHARGE ON OUR HANDS.

CHIKA
DIDN'T YOU SAY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT YOU WANTED TO JOIN THE JAPAN OVERSEAS COOPERATION VOLUNTEERS?
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
NAH, I'M GONNA MOVE TO SAPPORO AND GET AN APPRENTICE-SHIP AS AN ACUPUNCTUR-IST. COLLEGE ISN'T REALLY FOR ME...


...PFFT.


BUT I FEEL LIKE I CAN OPEN UP ABOUT IT NOW. THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK.

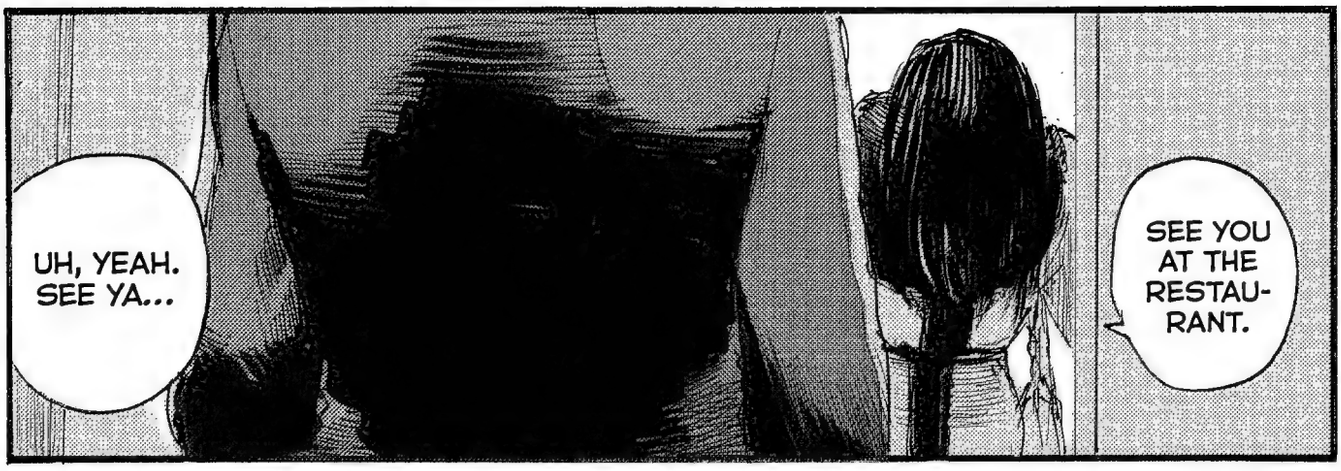
MY DAD DOUBLE-SLAPPED ME THREE TIMES ON THE SPOT.
I FELT AWFUL AT THE TIME, BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WAS IT REALLY MY FAULT? I THINK WE CAN AGREE THAT WAS JUST STRAIGHT-UP CHILD ABUSE.
ANYWAY, I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD TELL THAT STORY ON THE SHOW JUST IN CASE IT RUBBED PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY,

ACTU-ALLY, MINARE-SAN.
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING, OKAY?

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY FOR SO LONG.
HIRAGISHI 4-JO? NEAR THE CEMETERY, YOU MEAN?
YES. THAT'S WHERE MY PARENTS' GRAVE IS.
I JUST THOUGHT I'D VISIT THEM ON THE WAY. I ALREADY HAVE MY BROTHER'S PERMISSION.

SO, UH,
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS NEW JOB ANYWAY?
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO KNOW.
YOU GONNA BE GOOD ON CASH? I CAN TALK TO TAKARADA-SAN ABOUT GIVING YOU A RAISE IF YOU WANT.
NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I ALREADY HAVE A JOB LINED UP. BESIDES, I DID OFFER TO WORK FOR FREE AFTER ALL.
...HUH?
NAKA-HARA-SAN.
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE BEEN WRITING PART-TIME FOR A COMEDY SHOW ON HCB RADIO.
NO SHIT! I HAD NO IDEA.
UM... I'M ACTUALLY WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING A BROADCAST WRITER.
WHAT GOT YOU INTO THAT?
SINCE NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR.
REALLY?! SINCE WHEN?

HAS ANY-THING YOU'VE WRITTEN BEEN AIRED YET?
YES, A FEW TIMES, ACTUALLY.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY LIVELIHOOD. I'LL BE FINE.
20K YEN* A MONTH, BUT STILL ...
THE STATION'S PAYING ME A DECENT WAGE,
*APPROX. $200 USD.
OVER NOSY PEOPLE WHO ARE TOO SHARP FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.
I PREFER PEOPLE WHO ARE A LITTLE ON THE SLOW SIDE,
BUT TO BE PER-FECTLY HONEST,
OH, SORRY. I CAN BE KINDA SPACEY SOMETIMES.
HUH... THAT'S AWE-SOME.
ER... RIGHT.
I SHOULD BE GOING. THE MOVERS ARE WAITING FOR ME.
WELL,
JUST A TOUCH...
FEEL FREE TO DROP BY ANYTIME, OKAY?
HEY, WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN,



THANK YOU,

BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL BE COMING HERE ANY MORE.

HUH? OH... ALL RIGHT.

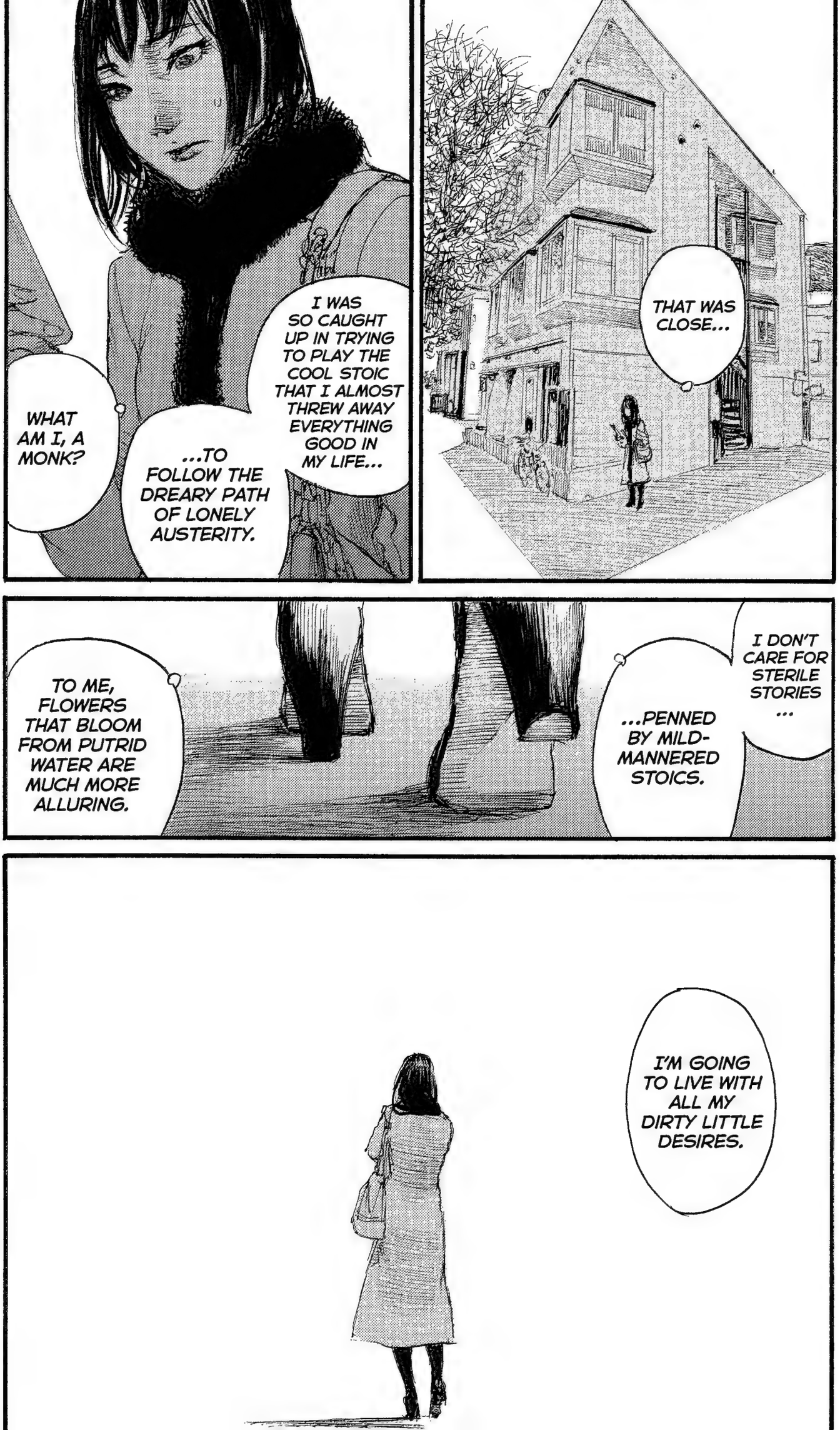
SEE YOU AT THE RESTAU-RANT.

UH, YEAH. SEE YA...

バタン..

THUD

HUH...
WAS THE APARTMENT ALWAYS THIS ROOMY?
HELLO?
TACHI-BANA-SAN? FORGET SOMETHIN'?
DUN DADA DAN DUN
DUN DADA DAN DUN
DUN DA DA DUN
DUN DA DA DUN
...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHAT'S THAT?
IS IT OKAY IF YOU VISIT ONCE IN A WHILE?
OF COURSE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME.


WHAT AM I, A MONK?
...TO FOLLOW THE DREARY PATH OF LONELY AUSTERITY.
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN TRYING TO PLAY THE COOL STOIC THAT I ALMOST THREW AWAY EVERYTHING GOOD IN MY LIFE...
THAT WAS CLOSE...
TO ME, FLOWERS THAT BLOOM FROM PUTRID WATER ARE MUCH MORE ALLURING.
...PENNED BY MILD-MANNERED STOICS.
I DON'T CARE FOR STERILE STORIES ...
I'M GOING TO LIVE WITH ALL MY DIRTY LITTLE DESIRES.

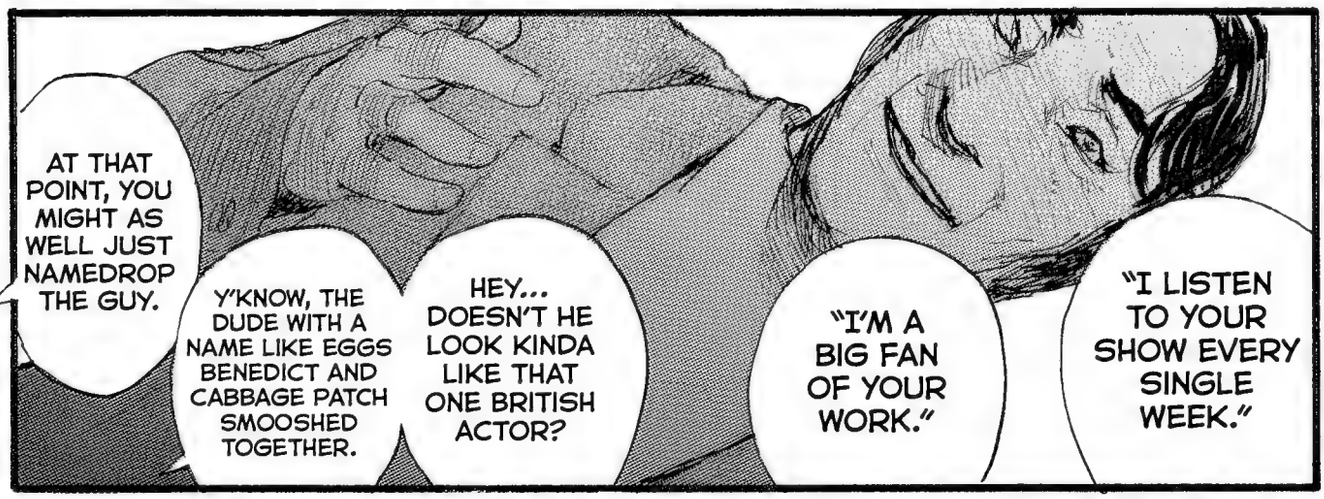
Chapter 38 「 I SHOW NO MERCY TO STRANGERS. 」

I REALLY WANTED TO MEET YOU!
GWOOOH!
RUB RUB RUB

WHAP
PAP
PAP
PAP
PAP
PAP
I'VE ONLY SEEN SLAPS THAT SHARP IN JACOPETTI FLICKS...
WHAT'S THIS HORSE-FACED BOOZER'S DEAL?!
MY ASS AIN'T JUST UP FOR GRABS, BUD!
THIS IS A DELICATE TOPIC, SO WOULD YA MIND NOT LYING TO MY FACE, MISS INTER-PRETER?
YEAH, BULL! NOT EVEN IN ENGLAND DO THEY PULL THAT SHIT.
I'M SORRY. HE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM. PLEASE JUST THINK OF IT AS A *FOREIGN* GREETING.

HM? SURE, SURE.
THAT'S A LONG-ASS NAME. MIND IF I CALL YOU BOBBY FOR SHORT?
WHY BOBBY ...?

HIS ROSY CHEEKS ARE FROM DRINKING, BY THE WAY.
HE'S A FACETED GLASS TRADER CURRENTLY STAYING IN OTARU ON BUSINESS.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THOMAS GRIFFIN KEPPEL.

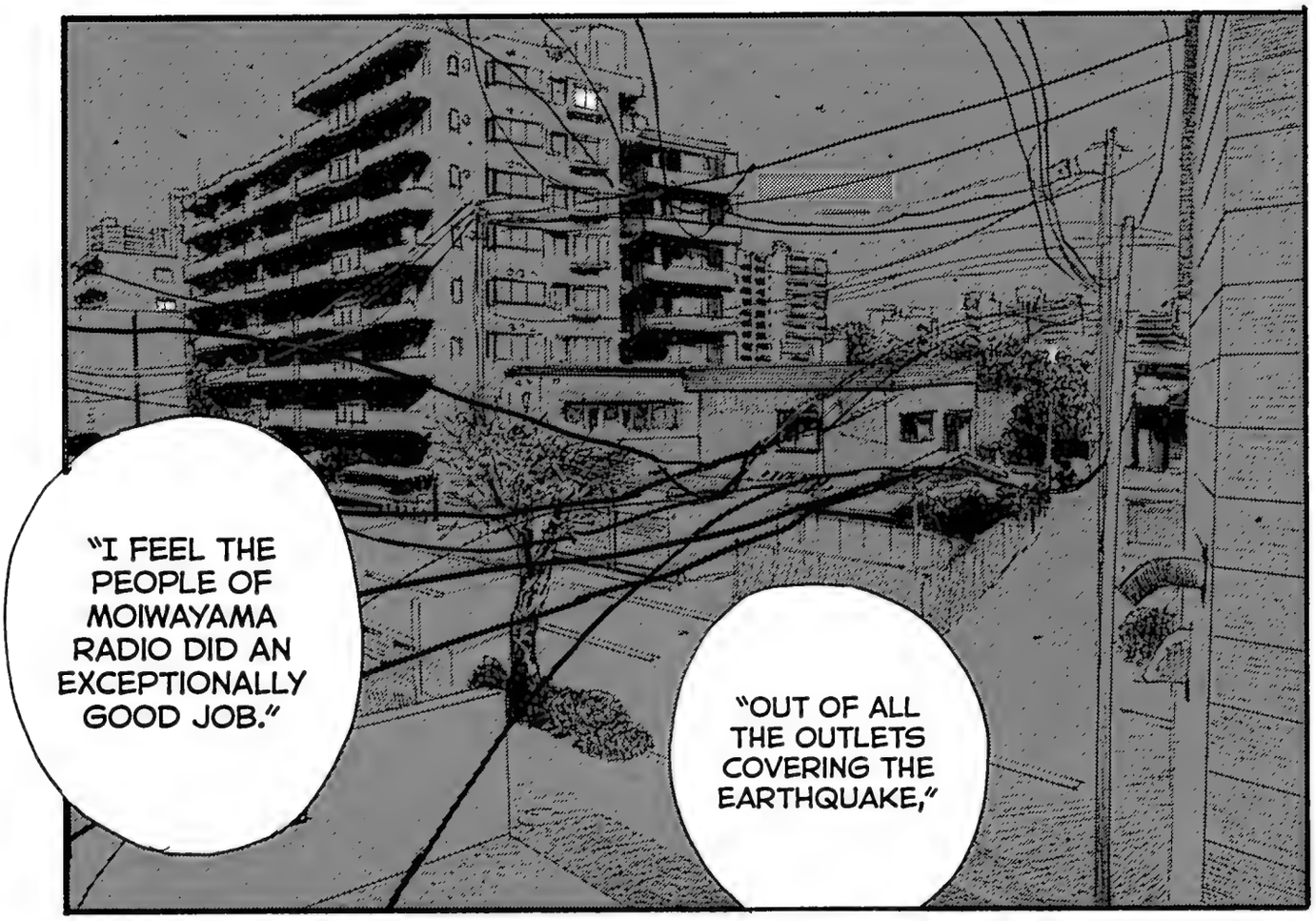

AT THAT POINT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST NAMEDROP THE GUY.
Y'KNOW, THE DUDE WITH A NAME LIKE EGGS BENEDICT AND CABBAGE PATCH SMOOSHED TOGETHER.
HEY... DOESN'T HE LOOK KINDA LIKE THAT ONE BRITISH ACTOR?
"I'M A BIG FAN OF YOUR WORK."
"I LISTEN TO YOUR SHOW EVERY SINGLE WEEK."

OH, THE HORROR.
AND WHOSE FAULT D'YA THINK THAT IS?
Don't gimme that.

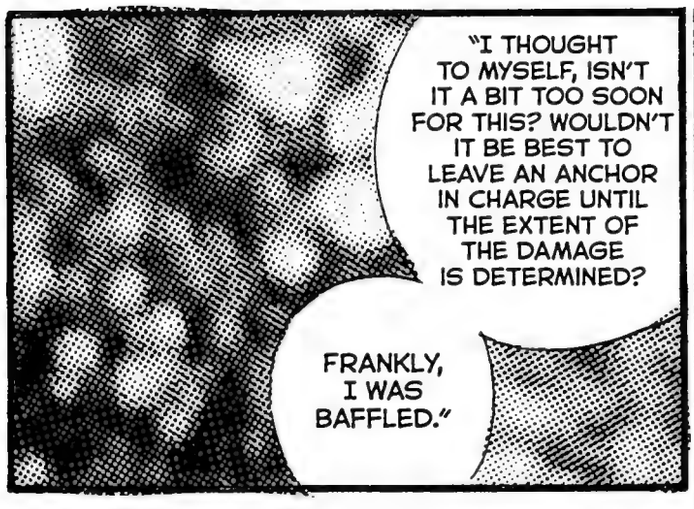
Q&A
すべてのカテゴリ
Yahoo!サービス
恵袋トップ > エンターテインメントと趣味 > テレビ・ラジオ > ラジオ
September 12th, Around 3:30 A.M., Sapporo's Moiwayama Radi
"I'VE BEEN HOOKED EVER SINCE."
...WHEN A JAPANESE FRIEND OF MINE SENT ME A RECORDING OF A HORROR-THEMED BROADCAST THAT WASN'T LISTED ON THE SCHEDULE."
"I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT YOUR SHOW...
閲覧数：45
回答数：0

"MY SON'S BEEN A TOUCH ISOLATED IN RECENT YEARS TOO, YOU SEE. WHAT I'D GIVE FOR A WOMAN LIKE MINARE-SAN TO GIVE HIM A BONK OR TWO."
OH, GOD. IS THAT A DIRTY JOKE OR SOME-THING?
MINARE-SAN, THAT'S RUDE! DON'T BE SILLY!
"MORE RECENTLY, I WAS QUITE TAKEN WITH YOUR SHOW CONCERNING THE AGORA-PHOBIC YOUNG MAN."
"THAT WAS TRULY A UNIQUE DOCUMENTARY. NO OTHER PROGRAM PROVIDES THAT KIND OF CONTENT."
APPAR-ENTLY SO.
IF YOU CALL AN ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT SEX CULT "ROMANTIC." I'M GUESSING YOU'RE PART OF THE HIPPY GENERATION, HUH?
"BUT MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE WOULD BE YOUR CLASH WITH THE RELIGIOUS GROUP."
"I HAD NO IDEA THE PEACE-LOVING JAPANESE COULD BE SO ROMANTIC. IT REALLY GOT MY BLOOD PUMPING."

Like TuneIn or Simple Radio.
THERE ARE A BUNCH OF APPS YOU CAN USE TO LISTEN TO RADIO SHOWS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
"AT FIRST, I HAD MY FRIEND SEND ME WEEKLY RECORD-INGS,
BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN USING AN APP."
BY THE WAY, HOW'D HE EVEN MANAGE TO CATCH MY SHOW ALL THE WAY OVER IN THE U.K?
gazing at my humble flip phone.
I say,
SIGH. APPS, APPS, APPS.
MINARE-SAN, MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TRADED UP TO A SMART-PHONE.
THERE'S AN APP FOR GODDAMN EVERYTHING THESE DAYS, HUH?
イラッ IRK
THAT'S WHY I SPENT ALL MY POINTS ON A NEW BATTERY!
SHE'S BEEN RUNNIN' LIKE A DREAM EVER SINCE!
WHY NOT JUST REPLACE THE WHOLE THING?!
THE QUAKE WAS DEFINITELY A HARD REMINDER OF JUST HOW IMPORTANT RADIO AND PHONES CAN BE.
YEAH, WELL...
"YES, THE QUAKE!"
"WHAT A SHOCKING TURN OF EVENTS THAT WAS."


"I FEEL THE PEOPLE OF MOIWAYAMA RADIO DID AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD JOB."
"OUT OF ALL THE OUTLETS COVERING THE EARTHQUAKE,"

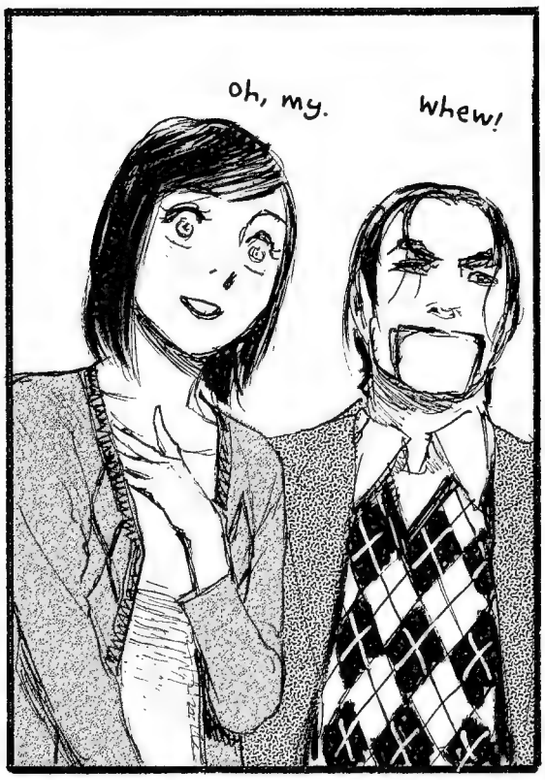
"BUT AS I RECALL, ABOUT 90 MINUTES AFTER THE QUAKE HIT, THE HOST SWITCHED FROM A STATION ANCHOR TO MINARE-SAN."
"AT THE TIME, I'D BEEN LISTENING TO THE COVERAGE LIVE SAVE FOR A FEW MINUTES OF DELAY,"

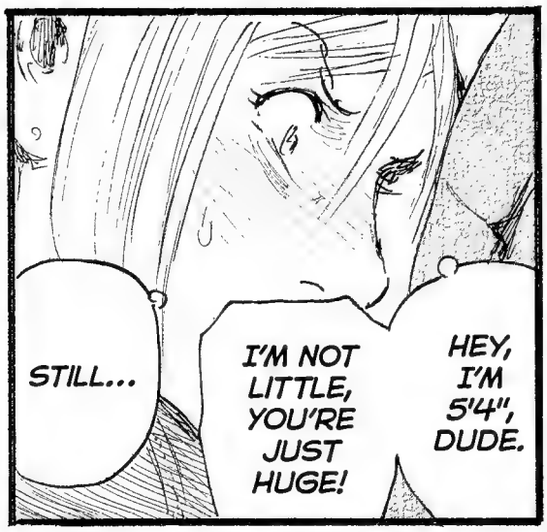

"I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, ISN'T IT A BIT TOO SOON FOR THIS? WOULDN'T IT BE BEST TO LEAVE AN ANCHOR IN CHARGE UNTIL THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS DETERMINED?
FRANKLY, I WAS BAFFLED."

"AS SOMEONE WHO LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUR SHOW EVERY WEEK, I HAVE TO SAY I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I HEARD YOUR VOICE COME ON."
NO DOUBT.

"A FAR CRY FROM THE COMFORT IN CHAOS THAT MINARE-SAN SO OFTEN INVOKES."
"REGARDING MADOKA CHISHIRO'S BROADCAST IMMEDIATELY AFTER,
HER SEGMENT WAS A QUINTESSENTIAL EXAMPLE OF A SEASONED SPEAKER'S ABILITY TO SOOTHE THE AUDIENCE'S FEARS THROUGH SYMPATHETIC SOLIDARITY."
"BUT IT SEEMS MY WORRIES WERE UN-FOUNDED.
IN FACT..."
"DEFTLY BLURRED THE LINES BETWEEN NORMAL AND ABNORMAL."
MINARE-SAN, YOU ABOVE ALL OTHERS,"
"AS FAR AS I KNOW, OUT OF ALL THE ANNOUNCERS AND PERSONALITIES WHOM COVERED THE EARTHQUAKE THAT DAY,
"COMING FROM YOUR MOUTH, EVEN THE MOST LUDICROUS OF CONTENT CAN BE MET WITH A PROFOUND SENSE OF RELIEF AND ACCEPTANCE."
OR OUT-RAGEOUS YOUR ACCOUNTS MAY SEEM,"
"NO MATTER HOW ANGRY OR NERVOUS YOUR TONE MAY RING,

A MASSIVE QUAKE HITS WHILE YOU'RE ON THE JOB,
AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOUR HOME OR FAMILY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED,
YET STILL THE SHOW MUST GO ON...
YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT MY HEART WAS POUNDING BACK THEN, Y'KNOW.
PLUS, I COLLAPSED FROM EXHAUSTION.
I EVEN SAW A DREAM WHERE I MARRIED KAKURYU...
I DON'T DOUBT IT.
should I take that as a compliment?
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
UM... THANK YOU, SUDA-CHAN.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW TRAUMATIC IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR YOU.
MINARE-SAN...


oh, my.
whew!


HEY, I'M 5'4", DUDE.
I'M NOT LITTLE, YOU'RE JUST HUGE!
STILL...

Again...?
I'M PROUD OF YOU. FOR SOMEONE SO LITTLE, YOU HARBOR A TRULY TREMENDOUS SPIRIT.

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO TAKE IT.
...ANYONE BUT MIZUHO'S REALLY GIVEN ME A GENUINE PAT ON THE BACK.
THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME...

SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE FUCK IS HIS PROBLEM?!
WHO THE HELL GETS HAMMERED BEFORE MEETING SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME?!
RUB RUB RUB RUB
SHY?!
YOU CALL A GUY WHO FONDLES A CHICK HE'S JUST MET'S ASS WITH ALL THE VIGOR OF A COLLEGE KID ADMIRING AN OFF-THE-LOT MOTOR-CYCLE HE BOUGHT AFTER MONTHS OF SAVING UP *SHY?!*
FORGIVE HIM. HE'S ACTUALLY EXTREMELY SHY AND HAS CRIPPLING SOCIAL ANXIETY, YOU SEE...
SO? AREN'T YOU GONNA TELL ME?
TELL YOU WHAT?
HE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS, ISN'T HE?
OH?
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

HO-HO. THAT'S PRETTY ASTUTE OF YOU.
OH, PLEASE. SOME BOSS YOU ARE.
WOULD IT KILL YOU TO SHIELD YOUR PRECIOUS EMPLOYEE'S ASS FROM GRABBY HANDS? OR, I DUNNO, MAYBE STOP ME FROM STRAIGHT-UP ASSAULTING A GUEST?
SOMEHOW I DOUBT YOU'D LET THAT SLIDE IF HE WAS JUST SOME GUY OFF THE STREET.
WELL, FOR ONE, YOU KINDA JUST STOOD THERE CHUCKLING WHILE I BEAT THE SHIT OUTTA HIM.
ACTUALLY...
THIS IS WHY I HAD HIM COME IN.
VALENTINE RADIO
2016
FINAL
SHOW PLAN

Chapter 64 「THAT'S NOT HOW THE WORLD WORKS.」

GOD DAMN IT. NOT THIS SKETCHY-ASS EVENT AGAIN!
DARN TOOTIN'.

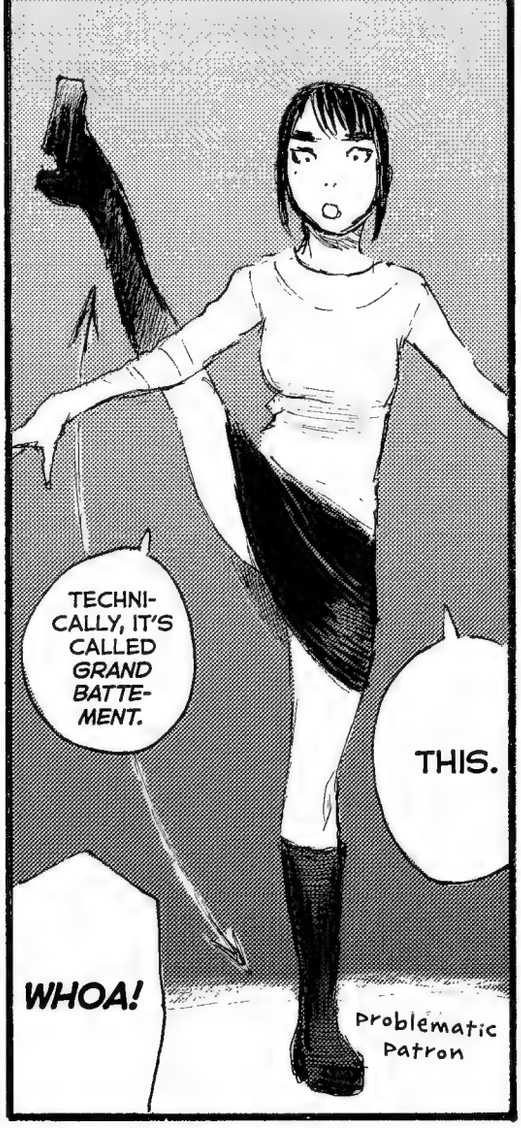
FOR ONE THING, THE TITLE BLOWS. THE ONLY VALENTINE I CAN GET BEHIND IS MY BLOODY VALENTINE.
LIKE AN AD FOR A MARRIAGE AGENCY OR SOMETHIN'.
IT JUST KEEPS POPPING UP NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO IGNORE IT.

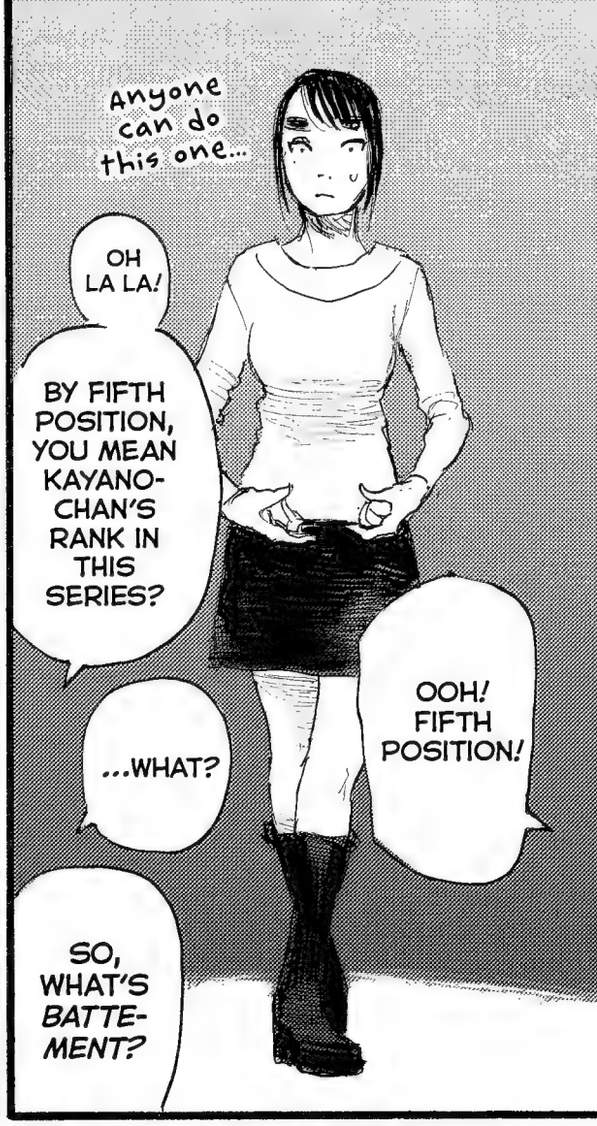
MINARE KODA
D.O.B. NOVEMBER 4
HOBBIES: BASEBALL,
SHOWS: WAVE, LISTEN
1°
2. FLIP
PERSONALITY
HISHIRO
OOD TYPE: A
BROWN BEAR
BSERVATION
BLUE MOON
RIAN
TYPE: AB
TWO MORE.
1°
2. FLIP
STOP AT THE ONE THAT SAYS "FINAL MAN-USCRIPT."
QUIT FLAPPIN' YOUR GUMS AND START FLIPPIN' THOSE PAGES.
WELL? ANY THOUGHTS?
Inexpressible Expression
UHH.
BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE HOW TO TAKE IT SINCE I KNOW DIDDLY ABOUT THE EVENT ITSELF, Y'KNOW?
I GET THE FEELING THAT THIS IS A PRETTY BIG DEAL AND ALL,

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PUT ME UP FOR THIS TO BEGIN WITH...
SOMEHOW I DOUBT THEY HAND OUT PURPLE RIBBONS TO FOLKS WHO AREN'T IN THE KNOW.
COMING FROM ME, IT'S LIKE AWARDING A PURPLE RIBBON TO SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR.
NOTHIN' TOO OUTTA THE ORDINARY.
OR MAYBE A LISTENER OR TWO.
ALL YOU'LL BE DOING IS CHATTING WITH OTHER HOSTS,
WELL, IT AIN'T ANY-THING *THAT* GLORIOUS.
STILL, I GET THAT YOU WANT A LI'L MORE EXPERIENCE TALKING TO GUESTS.
WHAT ABOUT THE TIME YOU HAD YOUR DOWNSTAIRS NEIGHBOR ON?
THAT WAS MORE LIKE SITTING IN A VACUUM OF AWKWARD SILENCE SLOWLY BEING CRUSHED UNDER THE FULL WEIGHT OF SATURN'S ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.
THAT REMINDS ME, I'VE NEVER HAD A GUEST ON BEFORE, HAVE I?
Not counting the whole wassamu thing.

THAT A PROBLEM?
HELL YEAH!
I ONLY PUT UP WITH HIS LITERAL GRAB-ASSING BECAUSE YOU SAID HE WAS A FAN!
NEVER MIND THAT I DECKED HIM.
THAT'S WHERE *HE* COMES IN.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY HAVING OUR BRITISH FRIEND ON FOR REAL? JUST AS A ONE-OFF.
DON'T TELL ME *THAT'S* WHY YOU CALLED IN SIR CABBAGE PATCH.
AU CONTRAIRE. HE'S DEFINITELY A FAN, ALL RIGHT.
AU CONTRAIRE? WHO SAYS THAT ANYMORE?
BATTEMENT DEMAIN PRODUCTIONS?
DO THEY MAKE COMIC MERCH OR SOMETHIN'?
ACTUALLY, THIS *BATTEMENT* IS FRENCH FOR "CLAP,"
NOT THE CAPED CRUSADER.
HUH. YOU KNOW FRENCH, KAYANO-CHAN?
A LITTLE. I USED TO DO BALLET IN HIGH SCHOOL.
BATTEMENT IS ONE OF THE MOVEMENTS.
FOR REAL?! THIS I GOTTA SEE!

BUT BATTEMENT DEMAIN ISN'T ACTUALLY BALLET LINGO, SO THAT EXAMPLE WAS PRETTY MUCH POINTLESS.
SORRY, GIRL. BLAME IT ON THE BOOZE.
THANKS FOR THE SHOW, THOUGH.


TECHNI-CALLY, IT'S CALLED *GRAND BATTE-MENT.*
THIS.
WHOA!
Problematic Patron


Anyone can do this one...
OH LA LA!
BY FIFTH POSITION, YOU MEAN KAYANO-CHAN'S RANK IN THIS SERIES?
...WHAT?
OOH! FIFTH POSITION!
SO, WHAT'S *BATTE-MENT?*

DIDN'T HE SAY HE WAS IN OTARU TO BUY FACETED GLASSWARE?
BUT HE'S WITH A PRODUCTION COMPANY?
AH, SORRY.
THAT WAS A LITTLE WHITE LIE.

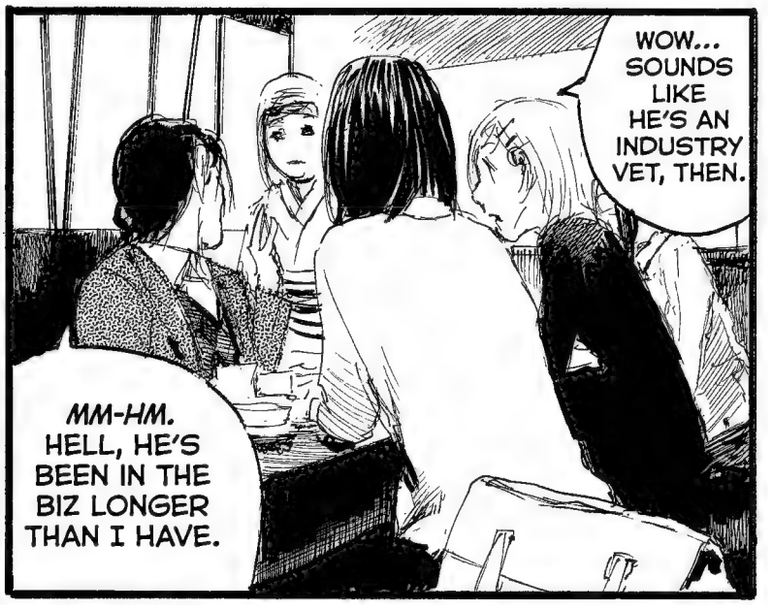
WAIT!

I WANTED TO HIDE THAT HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND. HIS DAY JOB...
GLASSWARE'S JUST A HOBBY OF HIS.
SAY WHAT?!

...IS RUNNING A RADIO PRODUCTION COMPANY.

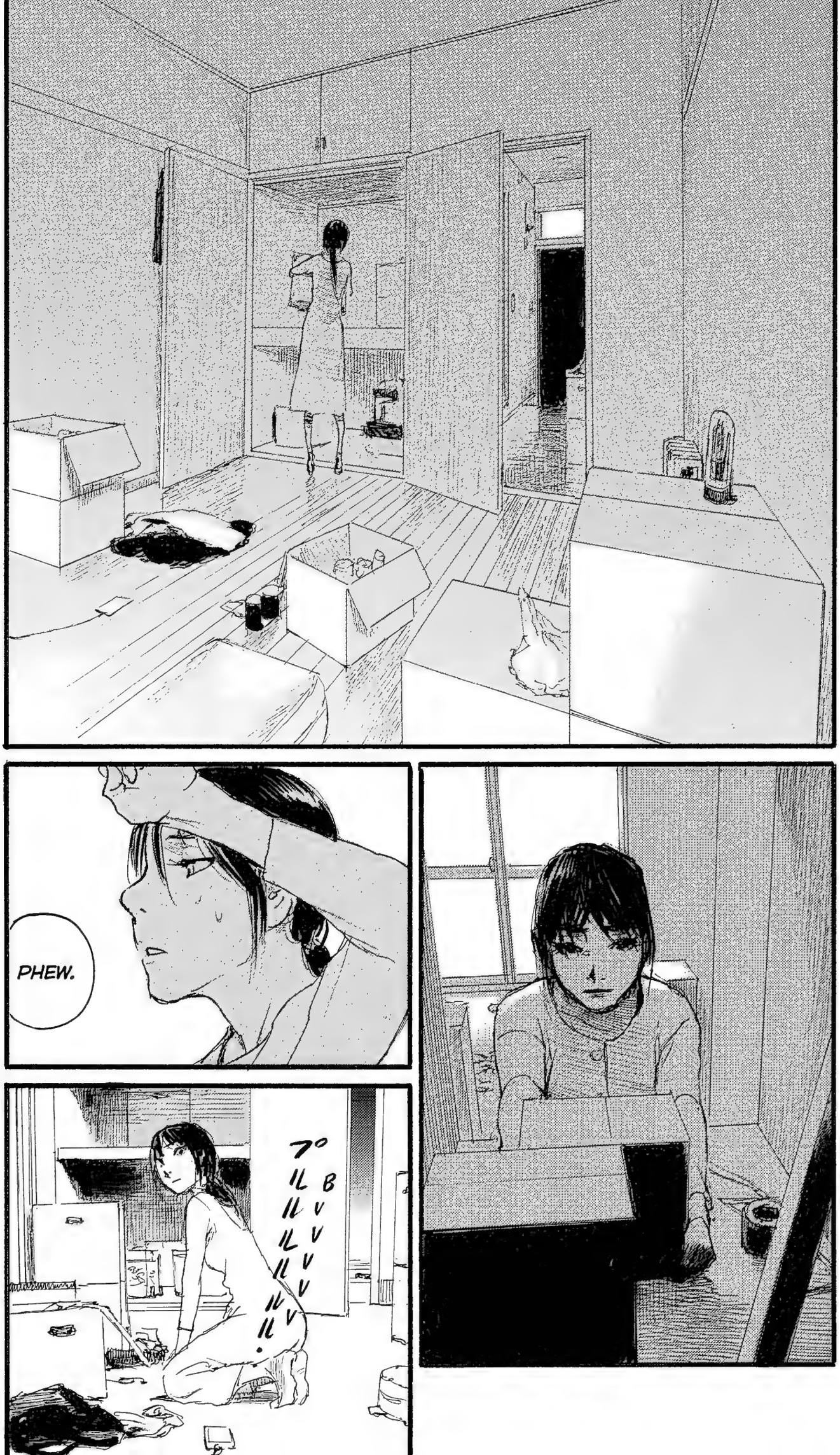
HE USED TO WORK FOR THE BIGGEST NETWORK IN THE U.K.,
BUT QUIT TO BE A CHAIRMAN AT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY WHILE MANAGING A COMMUNITY RADIO STATION ON THE SIDE.
PERSONALITY, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, HE'S DONE IT ALL.

I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA, MINARE-SAN! LET'S INVITE HIM ON!
WELL... FOR THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, I GUESS I CAN BEND A LITTLE.


WOW... SOUNDS LIKE HE'S AN INDUSTRY VET, THEN.
MM-HM. HELL, HE'S BEEN IN THE BIZ LONGER THAN I HAVE.

I FIGURED HE'D BE THE PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR YOUR FIRST GUEST. YOU CAN BET IT'LL BE A GOOD LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

SAYS HERE HER NAME'S SHOKO KAGAWA. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
AHH. SUDA-CHAN'S HER NICKNAME.
UH-HUH. WHAT ABOUT IT?
HEY, DIDN'T SIR CABBAGE PATCH CALL THAT INTER-PRETER CHICK SUDA-CHAN?
HM?
TRUTH IS, KAGAWA-SAN USED TO WORK FOR THE SAME MAJOR NETWORK I MENTIONED.
SHE EVEN HELD AN EXECUTIVE POSITION DESPITE HER AGE.
THAT IS, UNTIL WORD GOT OUT FROM A COMPANY EMAIL...
...EXPOSING HER AS THE LOVER OF ANOTHER EXEC, BENNETT, WHO TURNS OUT HAD GOTTEN HER THE JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE.
That's a hell of a pull...
I DUNNO WHO'S MORE IMPRESSIVE, HER, OR THE GUY WHO NICKNAMED HER...
SHE GARNERED THE MONIKER SUDA-CHAN, À LA THE 16TH CENTURY QUEEN OF AYUTTHAYA, SI SUDACHAN.
FROM THAT EPISODE,
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THAT MADE WORKING AT THE STATION A LITTLE AWK-WARD, SO SHE LEFT VOLUN-TARILY TO WORK FOR THOMAS'S OPERATION.

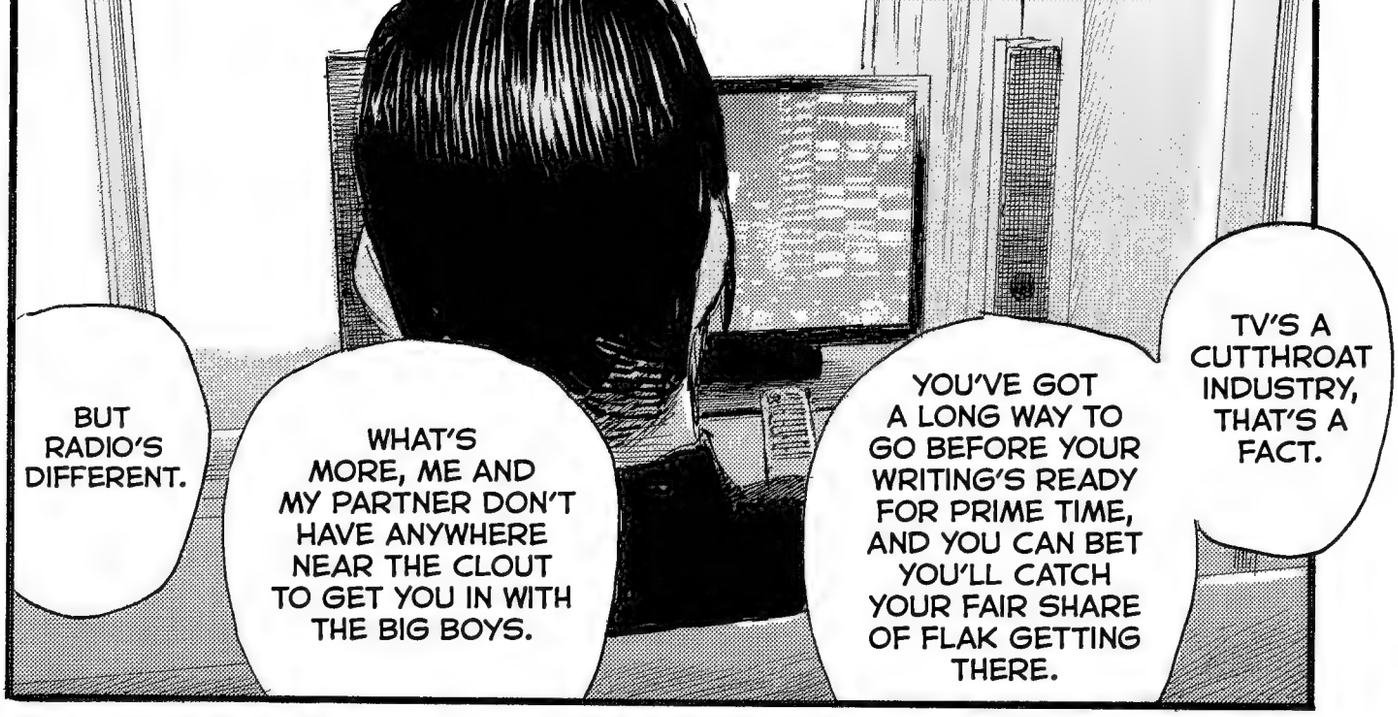

PHEW.
プルルルルルルル!
BVVVVVV

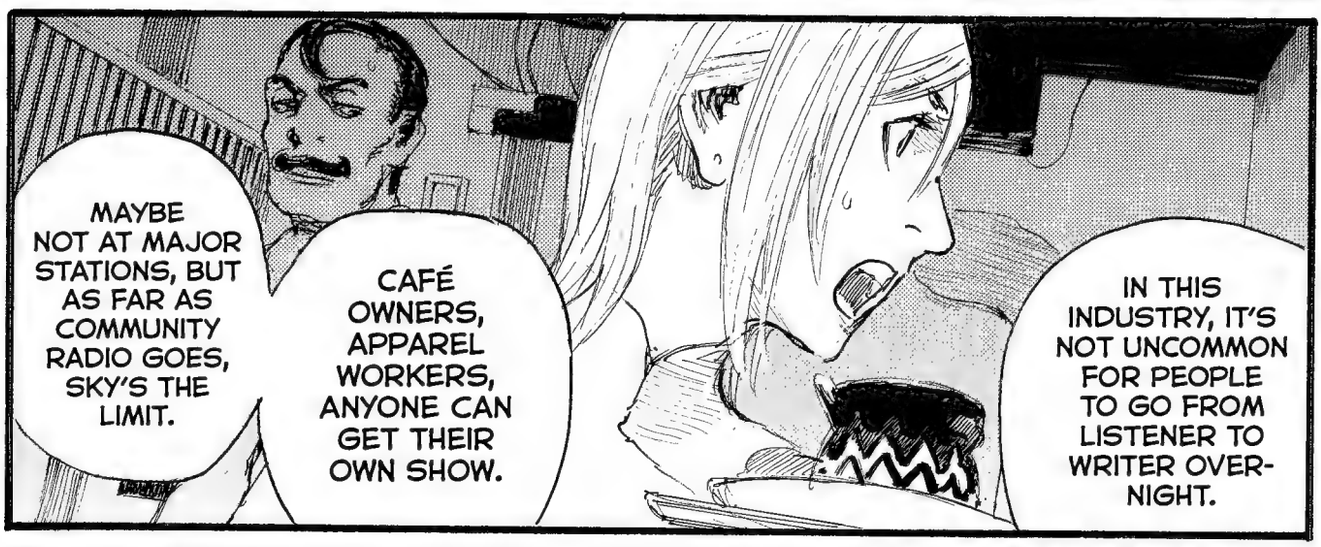
I MEAN THE INVITE FOR VALENTINE RADIO.
YO, IT'S ME. GOT A MINUTE?
HA HA HA. CRYPTIC ENOUGH?
I FINALLY GOT YOU-KNOW-WHAT FROM MY MANAGER.
SO, I WAS THINKING ...
NAH, IT ISN'T ANYTHING THAT MAJOR.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
I think I should wait until I have a little more experience.
My skills just aren't up to par yet....
I'M NOT SURE I'M QUALIFIED.
I'M STILL JUST A FLEDGLING WRITER.
I DON'T KNOW...
YOU WANT ME TO PARTICIPATE?!
WHAT?!

LISTEN...
SIGH
...
Do you seriously still think any of that matters?
!
BADGER TAIJI'S BEEN IN THE GAME FOR THREE YEARS NOW,
TAKING LONG-WINDED, OVERWRITTEN SCRIPTS FROM THE LISTENERS,
AND MAKING A SHOW OUT OF THEM THROUGH SHEER POWER OF PERFOR-MANCE.
Not to say we're an exception,
but in an industry fueled by audience participation,
do you really think anyone would be so high and mighty...
...to say you aren't welcome unless you're a master wordsmith?

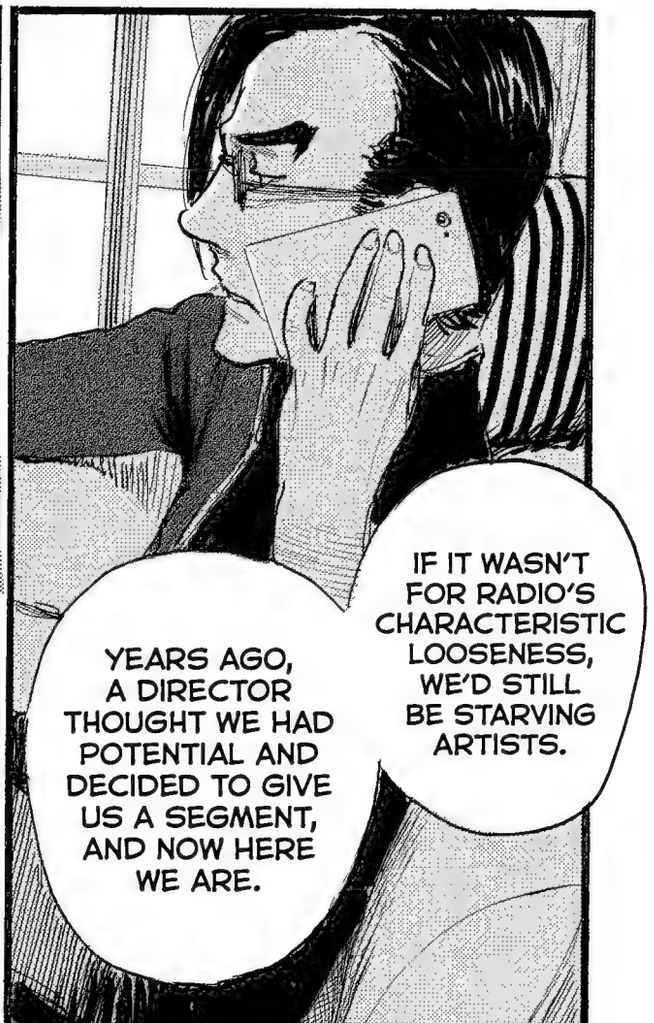
SO IF YOU WANT TO GET ANYWHERE IN THIS INDUSTRY, I'D SUGGEST YOU TAKE IT.
PLUS, IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MINGLE WITH A BUNCH OF HOSTS AND STAFF MEMBERS,
IT MIGHT BE A SPECIAL EVENT,
BUT I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO WRITE A WHOLE SCRIPT FROM SCRATCH OR ANYTHING.
YOU'LL JUST BE JOINING US FOR A CHAT ON THE AIR, NO BIG DEAL. BESIDES, WE'RE USED TO DEALING WITH NERVOUS GUESTS.
Um... Jiro-san?
HM?
...ALL RIGHT.
IN THAT CASE, I'D BE HAPPY TO.
TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT PEOPLE WOULD TEAR MY WORK TO PIECES.
YOU KNOW, I WAS FULLY PREPARED TO WORK LONG AND HARD IN ORDER TO BECOME A BROADCAST WRITER.

But as it turns out, everything's been going so smoothly. Almost too smoothly. And I know I owe it all to the two of you, but...
IF YOU WANTED TO MAKE IT IN MOVIES OR TV, MAYBE.
PFFT
Or that I might even have to sleep my to the top...
SOMEONE STOP ME BEFORE I STRANGLE THIS CHICK.
OH, FOR FUCK'S SAKE...
...IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO GOOD TO ME?
THAT'S JUST HOW RADIO WORKS.
AS FOR THE OTHER 80,
THAT'S 20% OF IT ANYWAY.
BECAUSE I HAVE A *VESTED INTEREST*, OBVIOUSLY.


TV'S A CUTTHROAT INDUSTRY, THAT'S A FACT.
YOU'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE YOUR WRITING'S READY FOR PRIME TIME, AND YOU CAN BET YOU'LL CATCH YOUR FAIR SHARE OF FLAK GETTING THERE.
WHAT'S MORE, ME AND MY PARTNER DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR THE CLOUT TO GET YOU IN WITH THE BIG BOYS.
BUT RADIO'S DIFFERENT.

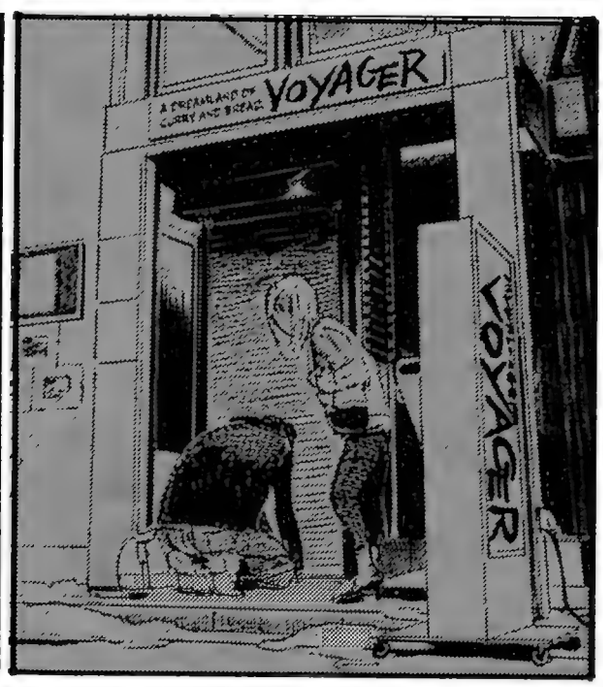

IN THIS INDUSTRY, IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE TO GO FROM LISTENER TO WRITER OVER-NIGHT.
CAFÉ OWNERS, APPAREL WORKERS, ANYONE CAN GET THEIR OWN SHOW.
MAYBE NOT AT MAJOR STATIONS, BUT AS FAR AS COMMUNITY RADIO GOES, SKY'S THE LIMIT.

Guess you could say I'm paying it forward.
I'm just trying to do for you what he did for us.
Same deal.

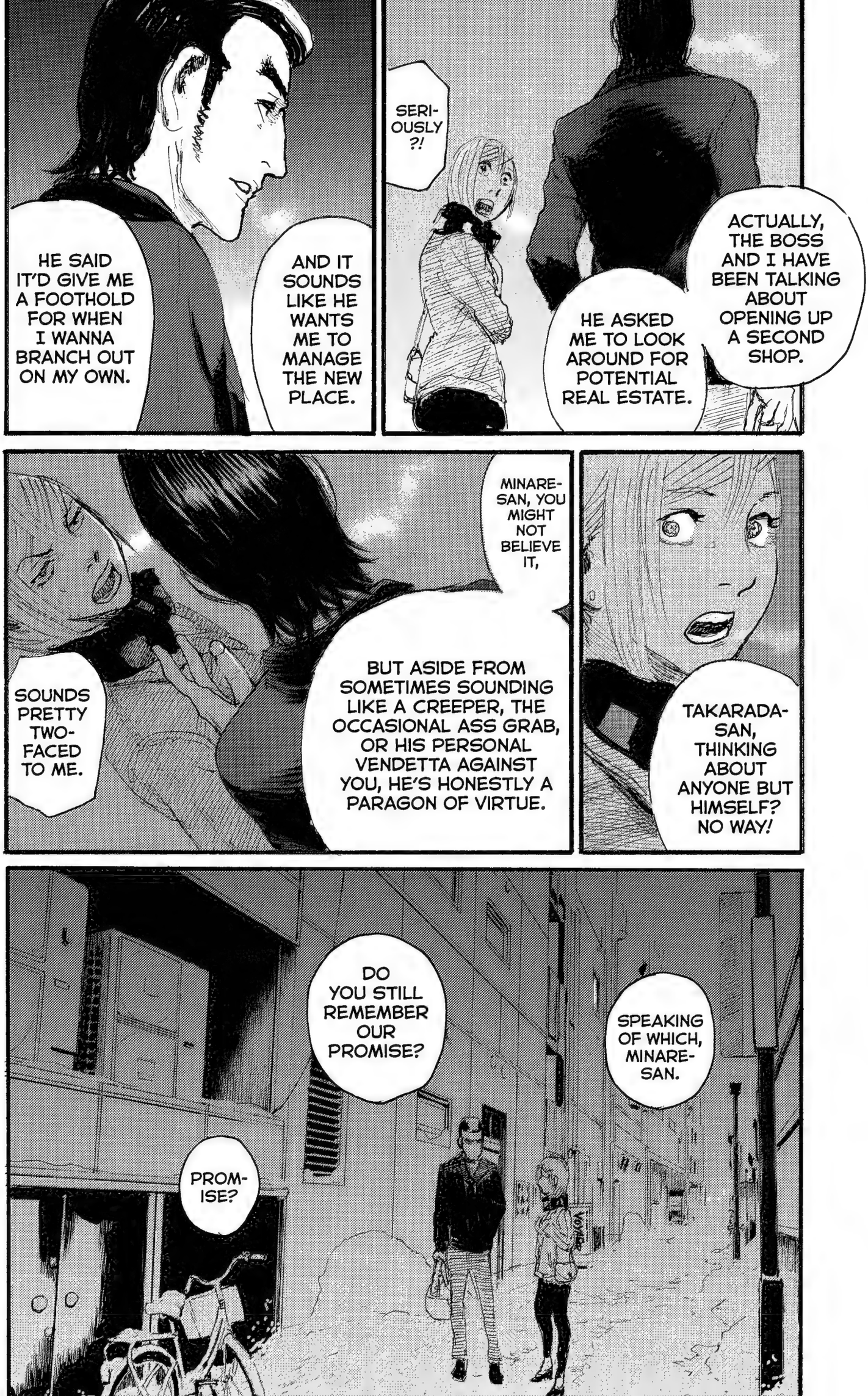

IF IT WASN'T FOR RADIO'S CHARACTERISTIC LOOSENESS, WE'D STILL BE STARVING ARTISTS.
YEARS AGO, A DIRECTOR THOUGHT WE HAD POTENTIAL AND DECIDED TO GIVE US A SEGMENT, AND NOW HERE WE ARE.

VOYAGER
VOYAGER

YEAH, SHE SAID SHE'D COMMUTE FROM HER NEW PLACE.
IS TACHIBANA-SAN WORKING TOMORROW?
TOO BAD I HAVE TOMORROW OFF.


A SPECIALIST OF CURRY AND BREAD
VOYAGER
VOYAGER

HOW IS IT YOU'RE ALMOST ANNOYINGLY INVESTED IN MY BUSINESS, YET SO LAX WHEN IT COMES TO YOURSELF OR THE RESTAURANT?
TAKARADA-SAN'S ARM'S ALL HEALED, AND WE HAVE SHINAGAWA-KUN NOW, SO I'M SURE THEY'LL BE FINE.
HUH ?!
WHO'S GONNA RUN THINGS IF YOU'RE GONE?


HE SAID IT'D GIVE ME A FOOTHOLD FOR WHEN I WANNA BRANCH OUT ON MY OWN.
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE HE WANTS ME TO MANAGE THE NEW PLACE.
SERI-OUSLY ?!
ACTUALLY, THE BOSS AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT OPENING UP A SECOND SHOP.
HE ASKED ME TO LOOK AROUND FOR POTENTIAL REAL ESTATE.
MINARE-SAN, YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT,
BUT ASIDE FROM SOMETIMES SOUNDING LIKE A CREEPER, THE OCCASIONAL ASS GRAB, OR HIS PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST YOU, HE'S HONESTLY A PARAGON OF VIRTUE.
SOUNDS PRETTY TWO-FACED TO ME.
TAKARADA-SAN, THINKING ABOUT ANYONE BUT HIMSELF? NO WAY!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MINARE-SAN.
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER OUR PROMISE?
PROM-ISE?

...WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST?
YOU KNOW. WHEN I FINALLY OPEN MY OWN RESTAU-RANT,
YOU SAID YOU'D HELP ME RUN THE PLACE.
JUST KIDDING. YEAH, I REMEM-BER.
SURE, I'M DOWN TO WORK AT YOUR PLACE WHENEVER IT OPENS.
REALLY?! ALL RIGHT!
HUH?
BUT THAT'S ONLY 50 MINUTES ONCE A WEEK.
YOU MAKE WAY MORE WORKING AT VOYAGER TEN HOURS, SIX DAYS A WEEK.
SHIT... CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.
BUT FYI, I STILL PLAN ON KEEPING MY RADIO SHOW AS MY MAIN GIG.
THAT COOL WITH YOU?

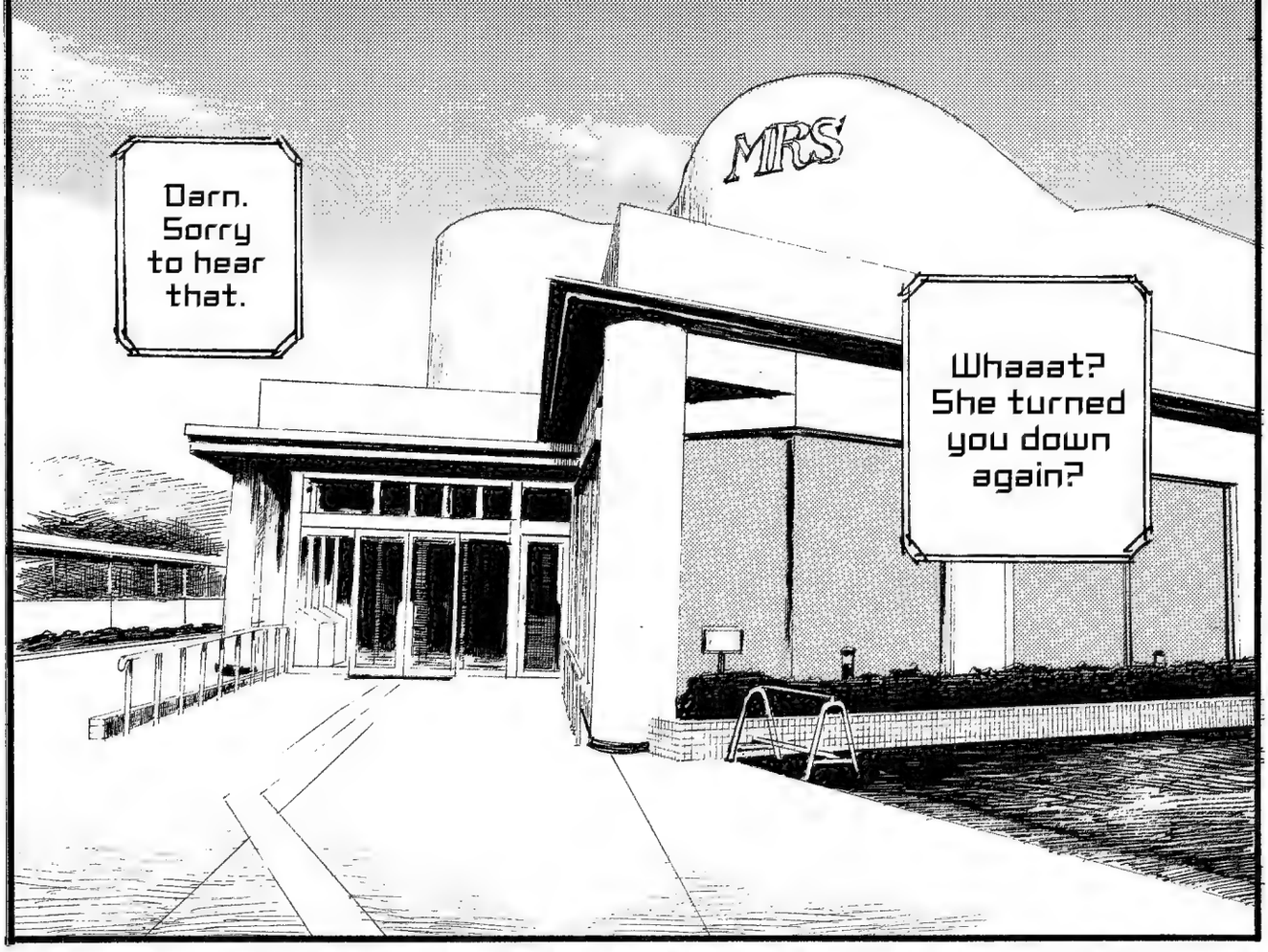
JUST PLAY-ING.
THESE DAYS, EVEN I THINK YOU'RE MORE CUT OUT FOR RADIO THAN SERVING CURRY.
RATHER THAN WHERE THE MONEY IS,
IN THE END, I GUESS THE QUESTION IS WHICH POSITION CAN'T BE FILLED BY ANYONE ELSE, Y'KNOW?
YOUR SHOW DURING THE QUAKE MADE THAT CLEAR.
NAKA-HARA...
BUT JUST KEEP THIS IN MIND...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME, MINARE-SAN!
NO OTHER WOMAN COULD EVER FILL THE HOLE IN MY HEART!
AND HERE WE GO AGAIN...

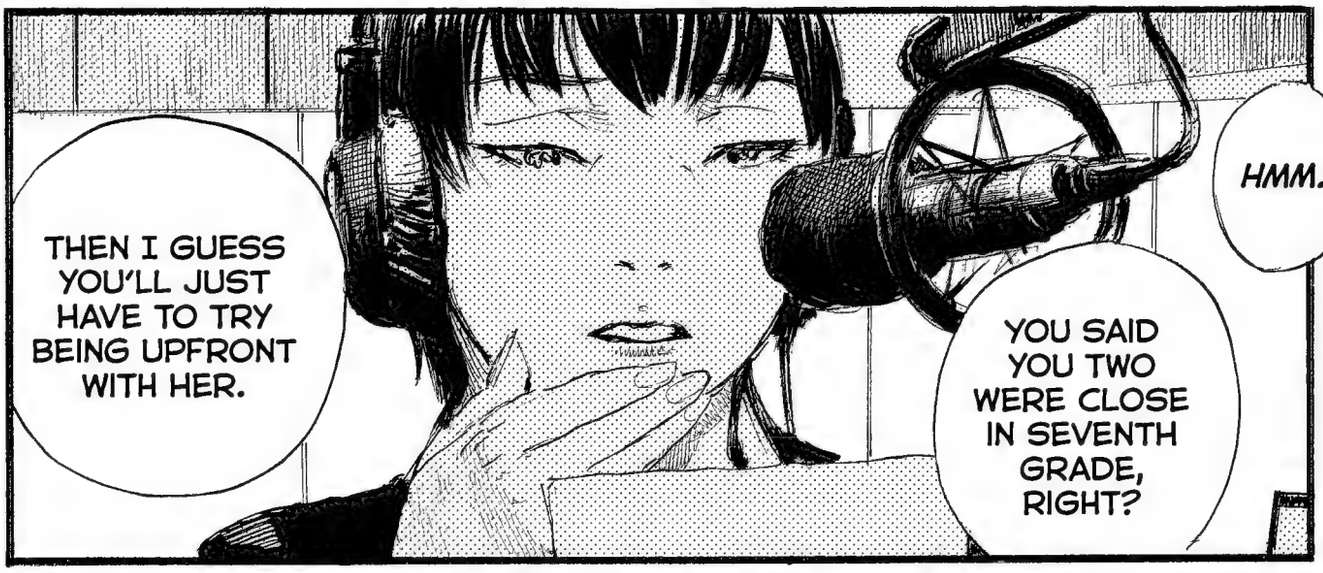
Wave, Listen to Meee!
No, you listen to me! You people can't even start on time?! I demand an explanation!
...Or so I'm sure many of you are mumbling under your breath, well here you go!
As of today, Wave is scheduled to run for a whopping 50 whole minutes! Oooh, boy, that's a lotta time to fill.

SERIOUSLY, 50 MINUTES? THAT'S BASICALLY A LEGIT SHOW!
I'M READY TO TAP OUT ALREADY!
OH, WELL! AND TO COMMEMORATE THIS VERY SPECIAL FIRST FULL-LENGTH EPISODE...
I MUST SAY, THE SAPPORO SNOWS CERTAINLY HAVE A WAY OF IGNITING THE IMAGINATION.
AND SO...
ALL R-18, OF COURSE!
HEY! AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL I INTRODUCE YOU!
...I'VE COME PREPARED WITH A LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR MISS MINARE KODA.
THANK GOODNESS WE AREN'T LIVE.
"Question one! Where do you live currently? What part of Sapporo?!"
FORGIVE HIM. HE HAS CRIPPLING ANXIETY, YOU SEE...
BEG PARDON. I MAY HAVE ALREADY HAD AN ADULT BEVERAGE OR TWO.
Not much of an interviewer, are ya, curly?

EXTRA
「I CAN'T BE HONEST WITH MYSELF.」
HEY... WANNA COME OVER AND DO TODAY'S MATH HOMEWORK TOGETHER?

NO, THANKS.

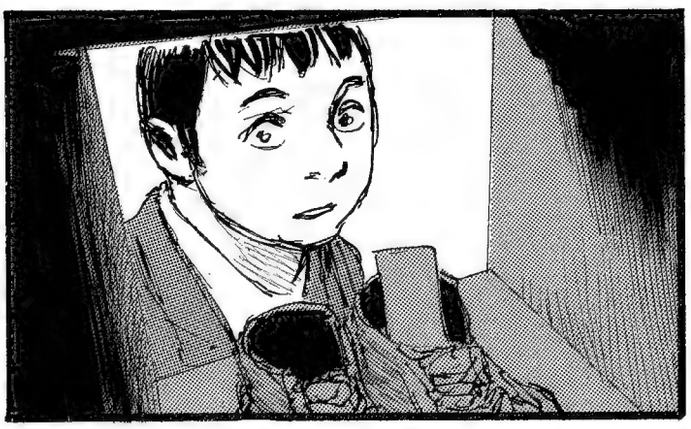

MRS
Darn. Sorry to hear that.
Whaaat? She turned you down again?

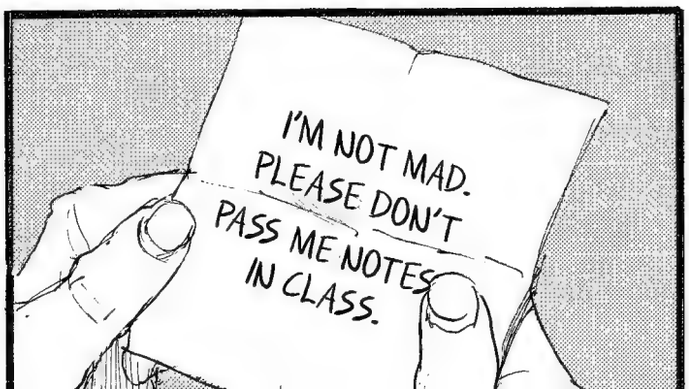

HMM.
YOU SAID YOU TWO WERE CLOSE IN SEVENTH GRADE, RIGHT?
THEN I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY BEING UPFRONT WITH HER.

SLIP HER A NOTE OR TEXT HER ON LINE.
NOTHING LONG. JUST ONE OR TWO SENTENCES.
DON'T PRESS HER FOR A REPLY. JUST SEND AND WAIT.

HAVE HER MEET YOU SOMEWHERE QUIET ON CAMPUS AND...
ACTUALLY, SCRATCH THAT. LET'S DO IT IN WRITING.

WHY DO YOU
SEEM SO MAD
ALL THE TIME?




I'M NOT MAD.
PLEASE DON'T
PASS ME NOTES
IN CLASS.

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO SPOOK HER,
GIRLS CAN SOMETIMES BECOME AFRAID OF BOYS SEEMINGLY OUT OF NOWHERE.
YOU SEE, KAGERO 226,
OOF. THAT'S HARSH.
AHH... I BET I KNOW WHAT IT IS.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S BEST NOT TO BE PUSHY OR ELSE YOU'LL JUST END UP CHASING HER AWAY.
AND PULLED BACK BECAUSE SHE FELT
SHE MIGHT HAVE NOTICED WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO,
SERIOUSLY...?
If you really were as close as you say, I'm sure she'll open up to you eventually.
Don't worry.
For now, try giving her some space.

KAZUMA!
HERE. I GOT THIS FOR FREE FROM THE VENDING MACHINE.
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH. THANKS.

SHE BASICALLY THREW YOU A LIFELINE!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY GIVING HER SOMETHING SMALL IN RETURN? KEEP IT ABOUT THE SAME PRICE.
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
ONE WEEK LATER
Huh ?!
She refused to take it, *and* she stopped talking to you again?!
Well...don't take it too hard. A lot of listeners are rooting for you.
Let's think of what to do next together.
YOU'RE ONLY 35. QUIT TALKING LIKE YOU'VE GOT ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE.
I JUST DON'T GET TEENS THESE DAYS!
YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL ANCIENT.
MAYBE MY WOMEN'S INTUITION'S GOTTEN RUSTY...

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
You're listening to Minare Koda's
Wave, Listen to Meeee!
Ooh. There's a familiar name.
This one's from Northern Firefly.
OH... SHE READ MINE AGAIN.
Mmm-hmm. That's what what I'm talking.
Remember, like I said in the beginning...
MRS

WHEN PICKING A BOYFRIEND, YOU NEED TO GO FOR A GUY...
...WHO WON'T GIVE UP ON YOU NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LEAD HIM ON.
A GUY WHO'S STILL INTO YOU EVEN IF YOU ONLY SHOW HIM A MODICUM OF AFFECTION NOW AND THEN? NOW, THERE'S A KEEPER.
ANY GUY WHO BLOWS UP OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
...IS EITHER A FUCKBOY OR A WIFE BEATER IN THE MAKING!
WA HA HA HA HA
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN...
...?
THIS ONE'S FROM NORTHERN FIREFLY, AGE 15.
"WHAT'S A 'FUCKBOY'?" SHE ASKS.
KIDS THESE DAYS. I SWEAR TO GOD...

AFTERWORD

Greetings, everyone. I hope you enjoyed *Wave, Listen to Me!* volume 8. At last, snow falls on Hokkaido. As I flipped through the seventh volume of the book, wondering how I should wrap up this earthquake arc, I came to a shocking realization. Take a look at the following female characters introduced last volume; Junichi's stepmother, Miyuki; Junichi's former coworker, Kanae Kurada; and Kayano Hirose, the announcer for Moiwayama Radio. Notice anything? That's right, they all have a mole under their right eye. Three unrelated characters, who appeared around the same time, each with a mole in the exact same spot? How strange. Surely this must be some kind of foreshadowing. SURELY the author must have meant SOMETHING by this. Or so some of you out there may have thought. Well, allow me to explain… Yeah, nah, not foreshadowing. Pure coincidence, actually. As so happens, I'm not in the habit of drawing character design sheets, but rather just sort of wing new designs on the fly. This is an example of me simply forgetting past designs and unknowingly using the same beauty mark three times in a row. Ain't that somethin'? Back in the day, I was a big fan of Hitomi Yoshizawa from Morning Musume, a group which held the conviction that a beautiful woman could never have too many freckles. To think that such tender feelings could lead to such a grievous error. Truly terrifying. I hope you all take this lesson to heart. *Sigh…* SEICOMA-SEICOMA (TL note: The author's personal mantra to ward off carnal desires). Well, till next time, take care.

Hiroaki Samura

Wave, Listen to Me! 8

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